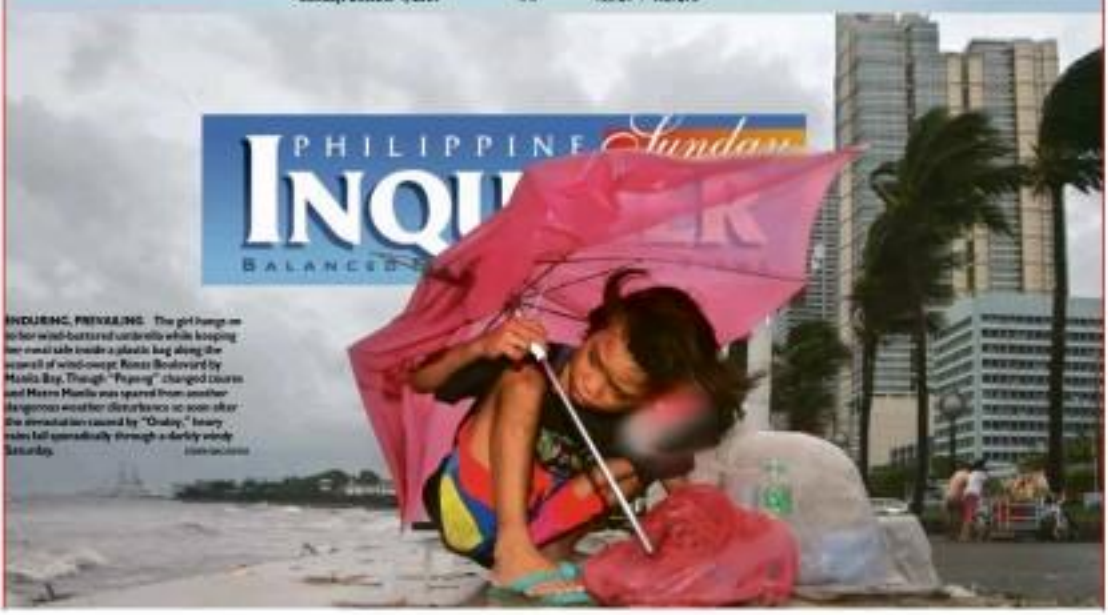
Sunday, October 4, 2009 ★★ Vol. 24 / No. 298

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

BALANCED



ENDURING, PREVAILING. The girl hangs on to her wind-battered umbrella while keeping her cereal safe inside a plastic bag along the seawall of wind-swept Roxas Boulevard by Manila Bay. Though "Pepeng" changed course and Metro Manila was spared from another dangerous weather disturbance so soon after the devastation caused by "Ondoy," heavy rains fell sporadically through a darkly windy Saturday.

Metro spared, North hit

'Pepeng' slams Cagayan, veers away from still-devastated city

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

TUGUEGARAO CITY—TYPHOON "PEPENG" YESTERDAY skirted Metro Manila and environs, sparing fearful flood survivors who had lost homes and loved ones, but hit this Cagayan capital with heavy rains and strong winds starting at noon, killing three people.

What was earlier described by the Digos weather bureau as a potential supertyphoon toppled billboards and trees, ripped off roofs even of newly built houses, and severed power and communication lines in Cagayan and Isabela. Reports of rising floodwaters in low-lying sections of the city were received between 1 and 3 p.m.

Storm Signal No. 1 posted for Metro Manila was lifted. Except for sporadic rains, the typhoon was hardly felt in the metropolis.

Killed were a man who drowned after he was swept away by strong current while crossing a river in San Mariano town in Isabela. Another man died after falling off a roof while an 18-year-old boy was running after he fell into a drainage canal in Baguio City.

Melchita Castro, director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Cagayan Valley, said decision-making in preparations for the typhoon was helped by the early forecast of an international website that Pepeng would make land-

METRO A17

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- **Secret to** gustatory pleasures of vegetarian cuisine / **SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE**
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- **Co-founder** of venerable auditing firm, Jose Araullo, now tells stories of the values of savings, thrift and honesty to children / **SUNDAY BIZ**
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Picking up the pieces, moving on, hoping

By Jocelyn R. Uy and TJ Burgonio

CLASSES RESUME ON MONDAY. Garbage is being collected again. Water supply has been restored. Clearing and cleaning operations are in full swing. Farmers are ready to plow.

A week after floods from Tropical Storm "Ondoy" reduced vast swathes of Metro Manila to ruins, and a reassigned national government grappled to help the tens of thousands of flood victims, life in the capital is slowly returning to normal.

Even as countless number of residents are still struggling to cope with the destruction while bracing for the likely effects of yet another typhoon, the government is taking steps to put Metro Manila and the rest of the country back on track, officials said at a National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

Water supply in the worst-hit districts has been restored, repair of damaged telecommunication facilities and infrastructures has started and alternative evacuation sites have been identified to free the schools packed with homeless flood victims to hold classes again.

The epic levels of rainfall brought by Ondoy last week submerged entire districts of Metro Manila, killing at least 208 people and injuring five. The NDCC said 42 people are still missing.

Ms Arroyo on Friday declared the entire country in a state of calamity to ensure that all government resources are ready for a worst-case scenario as the country braced for the arrival of Supertyphoon "Pepeng."

According to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Administrator Diosdado Allado, the eight water pumping stations in its east zone concession, which sustained the brunt of the flooding, have all been restored as of dawn yesterday.

PICKING A2

In flood, fire, family's pride lost and found

By Nancy C. Carvajal

WHEN A DOUBLE MISHAPPY OF fire and flood struck her neighborhood in Barangay Talipapa, Quezon City at the height of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" on Sept. 26, this mother of four had to decide what important possession she would save along with her children.

Darna Bernal, a housewife in her 30s, did not have to think twice about saving the 10 academic medals of her daughters Brenda Mae and Dianne, both honor students at Diosdado Macapagal Elementary School.

The medals may have no monetary value but for Bernal, they rep-

PHOTOS! A6

Wet nurses suckle flood-swamped babies

BREAST IS BEST. A breastfeeding team of expat and Filipina mothers goes to the San Juan Elementary School evacuation center to bring the message to 34 families that mother's milk is best, especially in times of disaster. Colombian Gladys Morales-Guevara (left) nurses a 10-day-old infant whose mother was too tired to feed him as did Susann Roth of Germany and Nancy Baker of the US. Second from left is Dr. Elvira Navarro-Esguerra, director of Children for Breastfeeding.

By Sunshine Lichauco de Leon
Contributor

WHEN MARGI, 25, FLED HER house in San Juan during the heavy rains last week, her 6-month-old baby was cold and crying. Having escaped with only the clothes on her back, she did the most natural thing she could think of to comfort and calm her baby—she breastfed him.

As a group of expat and Filipina mothers told families taking shelter in an evacuation camp in San Juan, breastfeeding in times of crisis is not only necessary, it is imperative.

Oct. 2 was Global Simultaneous Breastfeeding Day, an annual event with three objectives: To work against discrimination toward breastfeeding in public,

WET NURSES A6

Flood survivors drowning in noodles

By Nikko Dizon and TJ Burgonio

VICTIMS OF STORM "ONDOY" HAVE instant noodles coming out of their ears but they lack soap, underwear and slippers.

While calamity victims appreciate the packed instant noodles coming in by the truckloads, they also need other essentials to help them with the day-to-day struggle of rebuilding their lives.

FOOD A6

Carnival in Rio, rebuff for Obama; Olympics first time in South America

COPENHAGEN/RIO DE JANEIRO —Rio de Janeiro won a resounding vote on Friday (Saturday in Manila) to stage the first Olympics in South America in 2016, rebuffing US President Barack Obama, who had personally lobbied for his adopted hometown Chicago.

The decision by the International Olympic Committee in Copenhagen sparked joyful samba dancing on Rio's Copacabana beach and flooded disbelief on the streets of Chicago, which had been considered the front runner.

Rio's victory was heralded as signaling Brazil's arrival as a major economy by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who hugged soccer great Pele and broke down in tears of joy as he celebrated a momentous victory to which he played a key role.

Rio's 6 million citizens believe the games—the first Olympics for South America—have the power to transform the entire region, promote social integration and leave a lasting legacy in a city known for its striking landscape and pristine beaches, but also grinding poverty and shocking homicide rates.

CARNIVAL A4

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Sunny	Isabela/Aurora	Cloudy with rain
Baguio	Sunny	Ilocos	Cloudy with rain
Tagaytay/Nasugbu	Sunny	Cagayan	Cloudy with rain
Laoag	Sunny	Tacloban	Cloudy with rain
Metro Manila	Cloudy with rain	Ilocos	Cloudy with rain
Legazpi	Cloudy with rain	Cagayan	Cloudy with rain
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rain	Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rain
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rain	Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rain

6/23 22 13 21 29 15 7

SIX DIGIT 7 8 6 7 8 7

SUERTRES 4 5 7 3 8 2 4 9 5

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN 1 9 11 16 18 35 P16,129,312.20

POWER LOTTO 6/50 22 41 52 4 45 + 1 P75,211,300.00

A DAY to see the flooded street to carry relief goods to his family in Barangay Putatan, Muntinlupa. Many areas near Laguna Lake remain flooded a week after Tropical Storm "Ondoy"

Laguna Lake rising to critical level

By Marlowe Cleros, Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Marlon Ramos in Manila

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—RAINS SPOONED BY Typhoon "Pepeng" caused floodwaters around the already swollen Laguna Lake to rise by a few centimeters yesterday, forcing thousands of families to flee to higher grounds.

Parts of Calamba City and the towns of San Pedro, Biñan, Santa Rosa, Cabuyao, Los Baños, Bay, Victoria, Pila, Sta. Cruz, Lumban, Kalayaan, Siniloan, Mabitac, Sta. Maria, Pangil and Pakil remained flooded.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. has raised the possibility of the entire province's being evacuated because of the rising water level.

"The Laguna Lake drains slowly. It is a peculiarity concern," said Teodoro, who informed President Macapagal-Arroyo that he would personally check on the lake if weather permitted yesterday.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) monitors 21 stations to monitor the water level of the Laguna Lake.

Edgardo Manalo, LLDA general manager, said in a phone interview Saturday afternoon that rains that befell Luzon since Friday evening only increased the water level by more or less four centimeters.

"It (water level) plays between (13.9 to 14 meters)," he said in an e-mail Saturday morning. The lake's water level hit an all-time record of 14.62 meters in 1919.

The average water level from July to September ranged between 11.6 to 12.6 meters. Its water level was at 12.82 meters three days after rains brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" submerged Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Manalo said the originally 90,000-hectare lake crept into the lakeshores by 10,000 hectares as of their latest monitoring.

"But we are continuously monitoring (the water level) until (Saturday) night," he added.

Salvacion Gaerlan, department coordinator of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said 70,000 individuals are staying in 144 evacuation centers in Laguna since typhoon Ondoy struck last Saturday.

The municipal government of San Pedro was not to open new mass evacuation centers to declare the General Elementary School, which houses 2,500 families after a preemptive evacuation of lakeshore communities was ordered, amid reports on the rising water level of the Laguna Lake because of typhoon Pepeng.

Emporio Bonilla of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, said 100 families were added to the list of evacuees, following the local government's order for a preemptive evacuation Friday.

"There are still more coming in today (Saturday)," she said.

The classroom houses about 17 families as the minimum. There are only 45 classrooms in Central Elementary school.

The new water evacuation sites will be at the San Pedro town center building, a commercial area, and the Dolefil supermarket.

She said the transfer is scheduled Sunday as extra insurance, weekly passed here until Saturday afternoon.

In Muntinlupa City, some 2,000 families from eight flood-stricken villages temporarily left their homes due to rising lake waters.

Mayor Aldrin Jan Bunye said village officials allowed most of the evacuated residents to return home as early as 5 a.m. yesterday.

"We let some of the evacuees to go home to prevent our relocation areas from being overcrowded," Jan Bunye said.

Jorge Rapadas, chief of the Emergency Response Service in nearby Barangay Putatan, said the water spilled by the swollen lake was "not as high as 1.5 meters to some portions of the lakeside community yesterday.

"The floods have continue to rise in the all-time-is because of the high tide," Rapadas said.

Located just 108 meters from Laguna Lake, Putatan was the hardest hit village in Muntinlupa.

Since last week, the one-fifth most portion of San Guillermo Street, the village's main road, was still under five-foot deep floodwaters, making it impassable to all kinds of vehicles.

The floods also swamped grocery shops, beauty salons, and other businesses near Laguna de Bay. Floodwater also hit the largest freshwater lake in southeast Asia.

San Pedro said it may take until January before floodwaters in all areas of the city is subsidy. With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy

Are you prepared?

THE RECENT DISASTER caused by Tropical Storm Ondoy reminds everyone of the need to have a 72-hour survival kit ready for any eventuality.

Here are suggestions on how to build a survival kit by leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), who often counsel their members to have a "72-hour kit" ready in their homes.

A 72-hour kit is a commercially containing essential supplies that should help a person survive for at least three days (72 hours) during a disaster. Experience has shown that it usually takes about three days before government and other humanitarian aid can provide rescue and relief efforts in disaster-stricken areas.

Brenton E. Mindanilla, welfare services manager of the Church for the Philippines, in a recent interview on ABC's Sharp Talk, said there was no one-size-fits-all kit as it depends on the lifestyle, preferences, needs, capacity and situation of the person who will use it.

Marie Anne Florida, a member of the Church, said her own 72-Hour Go-sack at Meralco's office did not last totally even though it was rapped inside the second level of their home in Pasay City as floodwaters rose quickly to over six feet in a matter of minutes on Sept. 26. "It was impossible for us to get out to buy food for over 24 hours (because we did not have a boat or any floodwater device to use. The good thing is we had our 72-Hour Kit as we did not go hungry until the flood waters receded," Florida recounted.

A 72-hour kit may contain the following:

Food and Water—6 three-day supply of no-cook foods and water such as crackers, canned meat, nutrient, canned juice, candy and infant needs.

Bedding and Clothing—Change of clothing (shirts, pants), underpants, raincoat, blankets and shoes.

Tool and Light—Flashlight, lamps (don't forget batteries), candles, flares, lighter, waterproof matches.

Equipment—Can opener, cloth and utensils, radio (with batteries), pen and paper, pocket knife, rope, floaters (in case of flood).

Personal supplies and medication—Prescription medication for three days, toiletries, sanitary napkins, toothbrush, cleaning supplies.

Personal documents and money—Genealogy records, legal documents, vaccination passports, insurance policies, cash, credit card and prepaid phone cards. (Place items in a waterproof container.)

Special supplies could include a child's favorite toy to provide comfort and entertainment during an stressful time for children.

The Mormon Church invites people to check its website on family emergency preparedness at www.providentliving.org.

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76-year-old grandma leads rehab work in Provident

By Cathy S. Rubios Gubalia

AGE IS NOT ALWAYS AN EXCUSE FOR the inability to help.

All the more when the community where you have spent the best years of your life has been battered and beaten beyond recognition.

For Araceli Berber Bonaroja, a 76-year-old grandmother and president of the Provident Village Homeowner's Association since 1982, there was no time to waste.

President Villages, where she moved in in 1980 was one of the areas worst hit by the killer floods that accompanied Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in the afternoon of Sept. 26.

Bonaroja, who is half-German, was at the village chapel attending a Parish Renewal Experience (PREX) meeting when the first rush water of the heavy rain from the

"It started 3:30 p.m., Parishioners rushed into the church and it was of an unusual intense color. I had not seen that before and so instinctively, I knew that we had to get out of there, otherwise, we would be drowned."

So, together with 10 other parishioners who were invited to the chapel's fiesta. Another group rushed out to the new chapel that was under construction and hung on to exposed parts of it to survive for their life. Inside the chapel contained 13 parishioners, 14 of whom hung on to the chapel's chandeliers, and managed to scramble up to the choir loft. One lady in her 60s, Nenita Alcantara (the sister Bonaroja's friend had apparently climbed up on one of the pews, but the currents were so strong, they toppled over, about was the sole fatality in the group.

Bonaroja and her group received a lifeline from their neighbors...a relative boat, which they providentially hung in on. Their neighbors then rushed them in one by one. "We climbed up the roof and entered a bedroom on the second floor through an open window," Bonaroja recalled.

"We had been here clothes and I had just finished changing when the waters invaded the second floor and so we again had to swim our way to another house that had a third floor, and that is where we stayed, all throughout the night."

From her vantage point, Bonaroja watched her village sink. "I could see the waters rise so rapidly, the bungalows by this time were hardly visible. I could hear children all around crying for help, my neighbors were all on their rooftops."

The following day, at around 8 a.m., Bonaroja and her group were rescued by people on a rubber boat. From there she went to the village gate to coordinate rescue efforts.

It would be two days before the local government of Binãn was could spring into action. "I do not blame them because everyone was just so dazed, shocked and devastated. We did not have any resources to use and I think it is why we totally modified help from our friends outside," she said.

On Thursday, lawyer Eric Ingles visited the relief operations center at his alma mater, Ateneo de Manila University, and noticed that President Villages was not listed on their board. He coordinated with Blackman Wayne Morales Fernandez and began receiving a truck load by Pantabian, whose he knew many residents lived.

At around the same time, Bonaroja was at the center asking for help from the Jesuit school. Together with Fr. Bob Ramirez, and the team that Ingles had formed, they finally went to President Villages on Thursday afternoon.

When the team arrived, Jessica Soho of GMA-7 was doing a field report, and Bonaroja used the opportunity to make an appeal for pan boilers and dump trucks. Later that day, unknown donors sent the much-needed equipment.

"After we used one we small- to medium-sized pay boilers to bring out the debris. The village is starting to smell and I am very worried about an epidemic breaking out." The barely and spirited Bonaroja is not disheartened. "We have many heroes in our midst. Though it may take a while, with a little help from our friends, I know Malibu will rise again."

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Dengue threatens calamity victims

NEIGHBORHOODS STILL SUBmerged in floodwaters are facing a yet another new challenge—mosquito infestation.

The threat of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases is causing alarm among the residents of Mercedes Executive Village, Barangay San Andres in Pasig, which is still submerged in chest-deep water that is starting to emit the stench of week-old garbage.

"It takes P180 to transport goods that we bought outside the village by raft, which is more expensive than the few gallons of water that we are able to buy," resident Ana Bas lamented in the hotzone through the Gilas and Grasso foundation.

"Sometimes we spend P1,000 a day on water and transport alone, which would not even be enough to last food for our families," she said.

With Metro Manila experiencing lighter-than-expected wind and rain from Typhoon "Pepeng" yesterday, the Inasan Ondoy Relief Drive coordinated to distribute donations prepared by the Asahi foundation.

Some 5,000 families from the barangkays packed in Rizal province—Our Lady of Light in Rodriguez, Cainta, St. Michael the Archangel in Jala-Jala, and Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in San Jose, Montalban—were the recipients of relief goods.

Calls for help continue to be received through the Inasan-Ondoy Web site for non-perishable food, potable water in sealed bottles, toiletries and fresh underwear; donations of mosquito nets and other means of protection from disease are needed by communities that have yet to be reached by other donor groups, and are in dire need of help.

Those who have any kind of donation drive to transport relief goods to still-submerged neighborhoods are encouraged to lend these.

Donors may send relief goods to the Inasan's main office at 3090 Dona Rosa Ave., Makati. On weekdays they may also be dropped off at the following locations classified as branches: G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati; L/F Bldg. B, AM Megamall, Edsa; G/F Trivent Bldg., Edsa-Ave., Manila; and Sta. Rosa's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City.

All open McDonald's and Pizza Hut branches in Metro Manila, as well as Cubana Distiller branches in Quirino Ave., Barrio and Jr. A. Santos, Lopez, Bonifacio Drive and the BDO relief center on Pioneer St., Mandaluyong, will also accept donations to the Inasan Ondoy Relief Drive.

Monetary contributions may be deposited with PSBank account number 111-112002660 for peso deposits and 111-112000538 for dollar deposits under the account name "Inasan Ondoy Relief Drive."

PSBank has opened more options for Filipino donors abroad by entering love fund transfers online at www.psbank.com.ph. Along with Metrobank and partner remittance agency iRemit, PSBank has waived transaction fees for donations until Oct. 31, 2009.

RP joins The World March for Peace and Nonviolence

THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE THE third major stop for The World March for Peace and Nonviolence on Oct. 5-7.

The march, a symbolic journey that is spanning the globe to help promote anti-war, anti-violence and conflict-resolution among people and nations, commenced in Washington, New Zealand, during the UN International Day of Nonviolence on Oct. 2.

It is expected to traverse more than 90 countries in six continents, with a final stop in Germany at the foot of Mt. Hoffnungsau, Puerto de Stein, Argentina.

A symbolic march is and around the Manila area on Oct. 6 and a series of cultural performances and musical numbers at the San Andres Gym in Manila are among the activities scheduled for the Philippine leg.

Among the issues that the march aims to uphold are the clear disarmament worldwide and immediate withdrawal of troops invading new territories.

The World March for Peace and Nonviolence is organized by the International Association, World Without Wars, together with its local counterparts, Ang Bansamdal ng Bansalad ng Tao Inc. and Kapisanan ng Tao Di-laing Sentro Inc.

For details, e-mail Ashanta Sarcilhan, World March Philippine coordinator and president of World without Wars & Violence foundation, at ash.sarcilhan@gmail.com, call (918) 9431490 or log on to www.theworldmarch.org.

Shopping Facts

0% Interest

6 Months Installment

*on a P5,000 minimum purchase.

Departments	% Interest
Apparel	0%
Baby & Basics	0%
Bags & Accessories	0%
Health & Beauty	0%
Home Furnishings	0%
Shoes	0%
Stationery	0%
Toys	0%
Snacks	0%
Hardware	0%

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Flood survivors drowning in noodles

From page A1

"Please don't donate noodles anymore," Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral yesterday appealed to the public that has been responding to calls for help victims affected by the storm.

"Noodles are standard fare of relief packages. Right now, we still have a lot of them," she told the reporters.

While donations of instant noodles are appreciated and welcomed, Cabral said survivors of the storm, especially those staying in evacuation centers, were badly in need of other supplies.

The essential list

"For example, items of personal hygiene are very important," she said, retelling off a list that includes soap, shampoo, sanitary napkins, toothpaste, toothbrush, underwear, mosquito coils, chewing supplies and cooking utensils.

Cabral noted that these items were not usually "top-of-mind donations" that people give to disaster survivors.

Her cold consumer health care giant Johnson & Johnson has volunteered to donate sanitary napkins when it learned that evacuees were in need of them.

Shortage of cup noodles

As if there were not enough noodles already, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday reminded Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap to procure 5 million more "cup noodles" in view of the shortage in supermarkets and grocery stores in the aftermath of Ondoy.

At the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) meeting in Camp Aguinaldo, Ms Arroyo ordered the need to buy more cup noodles and put them on the market on top of the donated 2 million cup noodles.

Individual and the Metro Pacific Group each donated 1 million cup noodles for distribution to evacuees in areas hardest hit by flooding last Saturday.

"Despite what's donated, but let's procure some more for the market," Ms Arroyo said, adding that the food item has disappeared from supermarket shelves because people were buying them in bulk and donating them.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said he had publicly appealed to well-meaning donors to stop buying noodles and instead ask the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) what the evacuees needed.

"We are appealing to donors to call the DSWD so they can be guided in buying what is really needed by evacuees," he said.

Mr Arroyo stressed, "There's why there's a need for the upgrading of evacuation centers and what has been given to them."

Yap said the 5 million cup noodles would be procured from international and local markets.

'Noodle scare'

This is not the first time that instant noodles have figured prominently in the storm.

In May, Agriculture Secretary Joel Yapan canceled the P429-million contract which the Department of Education (DepEd) awarded to Jeverps Corp. to supply mulungay-fortified noodles to schoolchildren in 11 flood-prone provinces.

This happened after Dennis Quilo of Nutrition and Training and Development Center for DepEd claimed that unopened and the noodles did not contain the claimed ingredients.

The cost of commercial noodles is P9.99 for 45-55 grams, while the DepEd noodles cost P17.86 for 100 grams. Most of the beneficiaries of the noodles were residents of poor island municipalities in the Visayas and Mindanao.

In flood, fire, family's pride lost and found

From page A1

room for children's dreams. "I know my children's future depended on it, so I grabbed their notebooks and bag containing my children's school medals and records," she said.

But while fleeing the fire that hit their compound on Agno Street, Bernal, her husband Rondante and their children found themselves in the middle of a raging flood "that reached four feet and rose taller than a man."

The parents were each holding two children, thumped by the strong current. Bernal let go of the bag so she would have both hands free for her kids.

She recalled sighing when she saw the bag disappear to the floodwaters.

Happy surprise

Yesterday, a week after the great floods that inundated parts of Metro Manila and surrounding provinces, Bernal and her children had the surprise of their lives when the bag containing the medals was returned to them by a bicycle driver Joe Calubad.

The bicycle chanced upon the happy event at the Diosdado Macapagal Elementary School, which is serving as the evacuation center of the fire- and flood-hit residents of Tondo.

"My thought on lost documents—not priced possession. Even though we are poor, I am proud that my children are bright," Bernal told the bicycler.

She said the 10 medals were given to her daughters Brenda Mae, 13, and Dianne, 10, for being the top students in their respective classes and for excelling in math and science.

Brenda Mae, the eldest, is in sixth grade, and Dianne, in fifth grade.

The two girls beamed as they held their medals and their mother tried to hide her tears while at a shelter in Room 109, the family's temporary home.

"We still believe we have the medals again. They're our remembrance of how we studied hard to have a good future," Brenda Mae said.

"We have been given medals since we were in Grade 1, and we hope to receive more medals," she said.

Rented room

Bernal and her family were renting a room for P1,800-a-month at the second floor of a compound of small houses on Agno Street.

Her husband, a construction worker, lost his job only a week before Ondoy ravaged the metropolis.

When floodwaters started to rise on that Saturday morning, Bernal and her family stayed put in their room, thinking that they and their possessions were safe.

But a fire that started in the compound at around 7 p.m. forced them to flee.

The compound was razed by the three-hour fire caused by sparks from live wires.

From the fire, the family jumped into the floodwaters, Bernal holding Dianne, 5-year-old Cassyphia and the precious bag, and her husband holding Brenda Mae and 9-year-old Ernest.

They tried to keep afloat by holding on to railings along the street as they struggled to reach the elementary school about three blocks away.

On the street

Calubad, who knew the family, said a woman found the bag when the flood subsided.

Not knowing where to return the bag because the gold medals were engraved with the names of Bernal's girls.

"The bag was returned to me by someone who found it on the street. Hearing the medals again gives me happiness I have no title for a while," Bernal said.

"With the medals, I hope that my children still be inspired to study hard. If, so they can get scholarships for high school and college. The medals represent our dreams," she said.

Wet nurses suckle flood-swamped babies

From page A1

call attention to deaths that can be prevented through breastfeeding and fight against the use of milk formula which has become widespread in the Philippines.

When Nora D. Aquino-Castillo-cast Dr. Elvira L. Henares-Esguerra heard that mothers were lining up for milk donations at evacuation centers, she sensed it: breastfeed, they decided to pay them a visit.

Aquino-Castillo is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and a member of Volunteers of the Earth (WOE) while Henares-Esguerra is also an IBCLC and a Director of Children for Breastfeeding (CFB).

Breastfeeding team

With the help of San Juan city county officers and the Department of Education (DepEd), they formed an 11-person "breastfeeding team" and spoke to 54 families taking refuge in San Juan Elementary School on Friday.

Their message was simple: Breastfeeding is important in safeguarding a child's health and emotional relationship with the mother, particularly during times of disaster. Not only does it ensure a constant supply of food, it is also a source of natural medicine. It can also prevent illnesses such as diarrhea and respiratory infection.

Believing that family support for a breastfeeding mother is essential, Henares-Esguerra and Aquino-Castillo left a "psyche social intervention," where children were taught songs and games to encourage their mothers to be breastfeed.

In support of Simbahayang Breastfeeding Day, an exactly 13 a.m., nine women (three expectant mothers and six nursing mothers living at the center), breastfed their children. The expectant mothers were asked to participate in order to show the "universality of breast feeding."

Significant 9

Although there were only nine women compared to over 7,000 Filipinos who participated in last year's Breastfeeding Day, their efforts were no less significant.

For mothers unable to breastfeed their own children, a "wet nurse" (a mother who breastfeeds a child not necessarily her own) is the next best option.

One example is Gladys Morales-Guevarra, a Colombian member of Mothers and Darlings, who volunteered to nurse a 12-day old infant whose mother was too sick to feed him herself.

Bridget Morales, a mother who had breastfeed all five of her children, also volunteered in the event. "A lot of children are sick and dehydrated. Breastfeeding [gives the child a] complete meal and helps prevent sickness. Besides, these people have lost everything and have no money to pay for infant formula."

Although she has been helping with relief efforts, when Morales heard about CFB and WOE's efforts, she realized she could do more.

"I am a St. Scholastica girl and we were taught to give love, values and service," she says. "We milk is my motherhood's duty to promote breastfeeding in my talents. Doing this makes me feel like my efforts to help are more successful because we are saving babies who are helpless."

'Foreigners do it'

Mothers visiting the government relief goods left empowered when they were reminded that they can help their children simply by breastfeeding them. The event also reaffirmed what they had been taught in barangay health clinics.

Mabel, mother of two, says she learned that breastfeeding has many advantages than disadvantages and that the baby gets vitamins from her milk.

She has more than enough milk for her own child and volunteered to be a wet nurse to other children in the evacuation center. She holds up her healthy 3-month-old son and says, "I feel very proud that I can help my child. When I see foreign women breastfeeding, I also do it. I know it's right."

Margi, mother of a 3-year-old and a 6-month-old, describes the stigma often attached to breastfeeding. "I used to feel that breastfeeding mothers don't have class because they can't afford to buy milk. Or they were [too stingy] to buy formula milk for their kids. Now I see foreign women breastfeeding and they have money so it shows this is not true."

No to formula milk donations

Margi quit her job at Ashlion six months ago to stay home and nurse her baby. She says breastfeeding is a natural way of feeding formula milk and paying for a nanny. "I am proud to breastfeed and feel we mothers are very important to this environment."

While Executive Order No. 51 disallows donations of formula milk during disaster situations, Margi says she is keeping with the theme of this year's World Breastfeeding Week: "Breastfeeding, a vital emergency response, anywhere!"

CFB Director Henares-Esguerra hopes events such as this will show that the Philippines can end will be saved.

"Breastfeeding is the least costly and most far-reaching way to alleviate poverty in the Philippines," she says. "Like Dropped Stories' 'Ondoy' breastfeeding is the great equalizer—no rich, poor or others so—they are just all mothers."

Out-of-the-box goodies

Hoping to also emphasize the importance of saving healthy, inexpensive and indigenous foods during times of crisis, the groups CFB and WOE also gave samples of "out-of-the-box" relief supplies such as pili and peanuts, binatak, brown rice, dried fish, white beans, green mango, kamote, pako, salabat and tanglad.

The NGOs point out that canned goods should only be given for an initial three days after disaster strikes. After such time, the community should be given the means to cook their own food.

At "Breastfeeding Queen of the Philippines" Susan Roth says: "The zinc, plastic bottles and bags we are using are going to create their own problem in the future."

Roth is a former doctor who opted to live in the Philippine mountains instead to promote breastfeeding in the battle against malnutrition and hunger.

Are you ready?

The CFB and WOE plan to spread their message to other evacuation sites and call on mothers to help those who don't breastfeed or to encourage them in their efforts.

Aquino-Castillo is keeping with the theme of this year's World Breastfeeding Week: "Breastfeeding, a vital emergency response, anywhere!"

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Carnival in Rio, rebuff for Obama; Olympics in S. America

From page A1

In Rio's spending shoots, police and heavily armed drug-trial fishers speedy engage in urban mayhem that frequently halts the seaside favorite. Meanwhile, motorists flee the highway to the international airport is periodically shut down by shootouts.

But the government has promised significant improvements to get the city ready.

On Friday, Lula marked the loss of a potentially risky gamble to bring home the Olympics. Despite a speech to the IOC by Obama, Chicago was eliminated in the first round of voting, one of the biggest shocks in an Olympic bidder.

"You can play a great game and still lose well," Obama told reporters at the White House after returning from Europe.

Chicago had started in frontrunner and most Olympic observers had expected the Obama factor—first lady Michelle Obama spent two days lobbying in Copenhagen and also addressed the IOC session—to be decisive.

The fourth candidate, Tokyo, was knocked out in the second ballot. In the final round of voting by IOC members, Rio picked up more than two thirds, winning by 66 votes to Madrid's 32.

Another shot

A stunned Tokyo rallied to consider another shot at hosting the Summer Olympics after being eliminated early.

"It's disappointing and frustrating," Tokyo's governor Shintaro Ishihara told Japanese-language broadcaster NHK.

When asked whether Tokyo would now bid for the 2020 Games, Ishihara replied that "it is a question which must be positively considered in consultations with the Tokyo citizens, the Japanese people and the Japanese Olympic Committee."

Japanese Olympic Committee president Tsunekazu Takeda, who is also vice president of the bid committee, said of a bid for the 2020 Games: "I don't wish to waste our building effort which, I hope, will blossom in the future."

Rio's victory for this and Brazil, which will also host the World Cup in 2014, says a resurgence in the South American giant's economic and diplomatic clout in recent years—a transformation that played a key part in the bid's appeal.

Time has come

"All these people who thought we had no ability to govern this country will now have that we can host the Olympics," said Lula, a former union leader who became Brazil's first working-class president in 2003. "... The world has recognized that the time has come for Brazil."

Lula made an impassioned appeal to the IOC to stop its habit of awarding Olympics to Europe, North America and the Far East and give Brazil and South America a long overdue chance.

Despite worries about Rio's high crime rate and lack of infrastructure, that appeal clearly resolved the right buttons as did a lovely video display, showing beaches, mountains and a joyous people having fun.

The Olympics will feature beach volleyball on Copacabana, a marathon finish in Carnival's Sambadrome stadium and rowing under the city's iconic Christ the Redeemer statue.

Carnival-style celebration

Thousands of revelers wearing Brazil's green-blue-and-yellow flags erupted in joy on Copacabana's sands after the victory was announced, kicking off a Carnival-style celebration in front of the big stage and screens broadcasting events from Denmark.

"We won because we are a marvelous people. The Olympics in Rio will be wonderful," said Cecilia Barbosa, a 46-year-old lawyer partying on the beach.

Madrid had led the first round by 28 votes to 26 for Rio with Tokyo on 22 and Chicago last on 18. After Chicago's elimination, there was a strong switch to Rio in the second round, the Brazilians almost winning an outright majority, picking up 46 votes to 29 for Madrid and 23 for Tokyo.

Though Obama said his wife's gendarmed strong appeals in the day's first 45-minute presentation by Chicago, they were almost certainly undone by the emotional rage provided by Lula and former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch for Madrid.

Lula raised the emotional stakes in his speech. "This is a continent that has never held the Games," he said.

"It is time to address this imbalance. The opportunity is now to extend the Games to a new continent. It's an opportunity for an Olympics in a tropical country for the first time, to feel the warmth of our people, the exuberance of our culture and the sensation of our joy."

Samaranch appeal

Even more emotionally, Samaranch, now 89, pulled powerfully at the heart-strings of members when he spoke for Madrid. "I know I am very near the end of my days," he said. "May I ask you to remember granting my country the honor and also the duty to organize the games in 2016?"

Obama's appearance, the first by a sitting US president at an IOC session, provoked huge interest from IOC members, even though they are used to being courted by major political figures.

Obama told the IOC: "I've come here today to urge you to make the Olympics for the first time ever in the Americas. I chose Chicago: nearly 23 years ago, the reason I fell in love with the city I still call home."

Unlikely to seek 2020

Chicago is unlikely to seek the 2020 Summer Olympics after the shocking early exit of US sport officials began looking to the future.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, among a host of IOC officials disappointed in the victory by Rio de Janeiro, said: "We're ready in this hemisphere, with Rio, and it would not make sense for an American city to try again in 2020," Daley said.

"We in this hemisphere and they have to move somewhere else."

In a statement, US Olympic Committee chief Larry Probst and Chicago 2016 chief Patrick Stephanie Streeter, expressed disappointment while congratulating Rio, but did not address a possible US bid for the 2020 Olympics.

"The USOC will continue to be active internationally and demonstrate that our efforts and support of the international Olympic movement is a long-term commitment," the statement said. Reports from Reuters, AP and AFP

Million-dollar failed bid

PASSENGERS—PRESIDENT Barack Obama's failed bid to bring the 2016 Olympic Games to Chicago, Illinois, cost more than a million dollars.

Taxpayers shelled out partially $1 million or more for the president, his wife and others to fly to Copenhagen and back to woo members of the International Olympic Committee.

A 2006 congressional study pegged the cost of Olympic Air Force One at $56,514.6 per hour. The Boeing jet usually sold it cost $180,129 per hour at its flight hour, roundtripped Boeing 757 without Obama aboard. The Washington Examiner included more costs for support crews, such as maintenance.

Obama's team, the president's 14-hour round trip between Washington and Copenhagen cost about $750,000 to $1.4 million.

However, presidential travel requires additional spending, especially for security protocol and equipment. Also, first lady Michelle Obama and some administration officials traveled to Copenhagen at public expense ahead of the president.

The Copenhagen trip was not deemed entirely to the Olympic bid. President Obama spent 25 minutes conferring with Jacques Rogge, the IOC head, before Rogge saw announcer McDonald had been in London for a speech, and he made the relatively short trip to Brussels to meet with Obama. AP

More aid coming for 'Ondoy' victims

By Aeje R. Bacio

MORE AID FROM FOREIGN and local donors continued to pour in yesterday for flood victims in Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces.

Yesterday, the Australian government committed to provide another P80 million to support urgent food relief efforts for victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

"On behalf of the Australian government and people, I extend heartfelt condolences to the people of the Philippines for the loss of life and destruction resulting from these devastating floods," Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Rod Smith said in a statement.

This is on top of the initial P40 million that Australia had pledged on Sunday.

Australia's assistance will support the provision of supplementary food rations, including high-energy biscuits, to children under 5.

In addition, Australian national experts are also working on the ground providing logistical and communication support to the response and relief efforts of the government and UN partners.

The United States is also helping the Philippines with its relief efforts.

US State Department spokesperson Ian Reilly told reporters Friday that the United States sends its condolences to Ondoy victims.

The US military mobilized disaster relief operations across the Pacific on Friday in response to a series of tsunamis, earthquakes and severe storms that have devastated the region, the top US commander in Asia said.

US Pacific Command chief Admiral Timothy Keating told reporters "some significant disaster relief operations are under way" in American Samoa, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Two amphibious ships, the USS Harpers Ferry and the USS Tortuga, were now off the coast of Manila with hundreds of marines on board ready to provide medical and other help if needed.

Filipinos working in Hong Kong have raised money to buy food for flood victims in Barangay Marilgan, Quezon City, and the cleanup of their neighborhood, service priest Fr. Robert Reyes said yesterday.

Reyes' group, Bahay Ko, raised some P15,870 during a fund-raising event attended by recent survivors last Sunday in Hong Kong, a day after storm Ondoy battered Metro Manila.

"All organics as many people as possible to clean up the barangay and cook soup for everybody," he said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has allocated P80 million worth of standby funds for eight regions in anticipation of the effects of Typhoon "Neping" and for the relief and rehabilitation of Ondoy survivors.

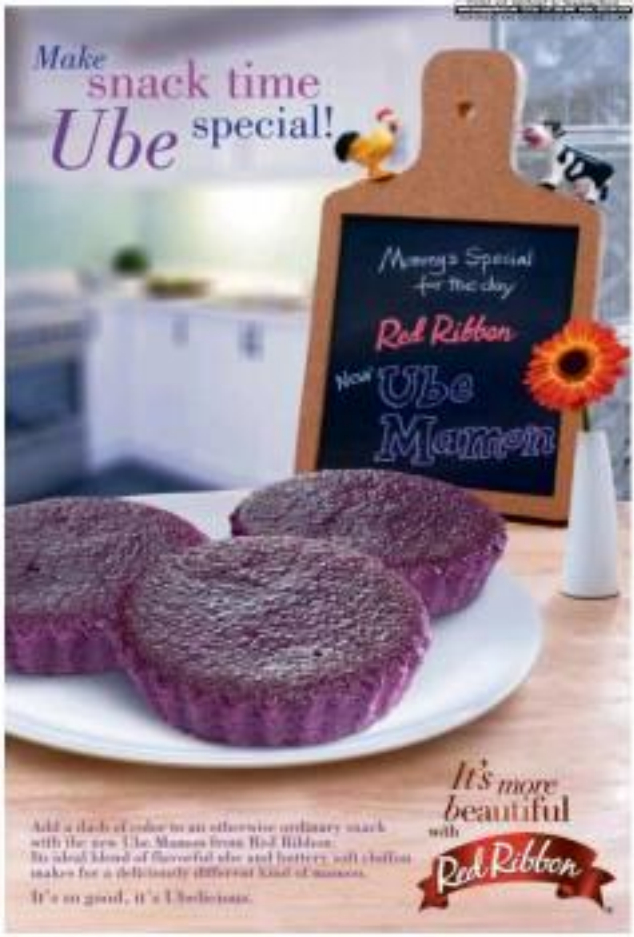
Cabral said that of the amount, P16 million are from the DSWD central office while P64 million represent food and non-food commodities that have been distributed to the DSWD central office and field offices.

The regions that will receive the standby funds are the National Capital Region (NCR); Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Calabarzon (Cabarlo, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon); Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan); and Bicol.

The Bureau of Immigration has joined other government agencies in extending assistance to Ondoy victims as it mobilized its vessels and life to conduct relief operations for victims of the disaster.

BI Commissioner Nonoy Libanan launched on Wednesday Typhoon Ondoy on Express Filipino, which aims to assist the government in extending help and alleviating the needs of victims.

Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday pushed for the procurement of at least two rubber boats each for all barangays in the country to be used in rescuing people during floods. With reports from AP, AFP, TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon



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Marikina classes resume tomorrow

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

STILL STRUGGLING TO RETURN to normal after being hit hard by Tropical Storm "Ondoy," the Marikina government yesterday announced that classes would resume in the city on Monday.

"We have to start the classes since many areas are no longer flooded. Everyone will have to go back to school," said Mayor Marides Fernando.

The mayor said families resuming to the schools that have been converted into evacuation centers would just have to go back to their homes.

But Gumercindo Mabale, Mabalo, who is staying at the Jr. Binukbok Elementary School with her husband and three children, said the easiest yet return to her house in Barangay Tumana because it is still buried in mud.

"We will have no place to stay if they will send us away," said Mabalo.

800 families

The school's principal, Nilsa Constantino, said the wait means it classes could resume on Monday at the school where more than 800 families are staying.

She said classrooms on the ground floor had also been flooded, and that books in the library 50 computer sets and a copying machine were water-logged.

"We also noticed just tell those people to go away," she said.

Some of the families at the school were told earlier this week to return to their homes.

Though some heeded the call, they all returned to the school on Friday night when water in the Marikina River rose as typhoon "Pepeng" approached.

Families who left the evacuation center at the Barangka Elementary School also returned to the school early yesterday, according to Barangay Barangka assistant secretary Gerardo Sagalongos Jr.

The water in the river rose to more than 17 meters yesterday morning, when its normal level is about 13 meters, by afternoon, the water level measured 13.8 meters, according to the city's public information office.

Cleaning

Told that some families said they could not yet return to their mud-covered houses, Fernando said these were no longer any houses under water and it was just a matter of cleaning those under mud.

Resident Marjie Pangilinan, 39, said she would not bring her four children back to their house not only because of the mud, but also because of the piles of garbage on the street.

Fernando said that even after the evacuation centers are cleared, food rations would go to the affected barangays.

She said the city government, with help from a private group, would even a "zero trip" in front of the city's health center to accommodate some 500 people.

Fernando asked for "patience" as the city's garbage trucks had been damaged by the flood.

She said the government had rented several garbage trucks but because of the huge volume of mud, including pillows, mattresses and entire sofa sets, cleaning the entire city, however far its downtown, would take time.

Temporary dumpsite

The city has a temporary dump in the flood-prone Sahulad area, which the city plans to elevate by accumulating the garbage and covering it with soil, Fernando said.

She said the government had considered the closing of City Hall, which was also flooded, and the public was keen on the government can resume operations and residents can go to the markets for their needs.

MUDDLING IN MUD Evan Saad is last, Bris district covered with mud in Marikina, Rizal. The massive pose. "Ondoy" cleaning operation is now under way.

Picking up the pieces, moving on, hoping: Classes resume, etc.

From page A1

The MWSS has also deployed water trucks to elevated areas of eastern Metro Manila, where water pressure has reportedly tanked mud because of increased consumption.

The supply of water in the west zone by the Maynilad concessionaire has also returned to normal, except for Barangay Putatan in Muntinlupa, which continues to be inundated because of the high water level of Laguna de Bay, said Alfafara.

Iloy percent of the water service is restablishing, also in Muntinlupa, was restored after deep wells were cleaned.

Local and provincial water utilities have also agreed to increase water pressure to reach remote areas still submerged by floods.

Water delivery

To supply flood victims with potable water, the MWSS has set up special high-pressure water filling stations to four strategic areas—in Pateogte along Commonwealth Avenue, the five Quezon Hall on Quezon Extension and in the pumping station along Marcos Highway in Marikina and the Pasig water treatment plant in Taguig.

"We are delivering bottled water to five-gallon containers in evacuation centers," said MWSS Administrator Diosdado Jose Allado.

Water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad are extending payment relief to customers by declaring a moratorium on water disconnections in all areas inundated by floodwaters. Flood victims are also being given up to 12 months to pay their water bills.

Acting Interior Secretary Melchor Rosales said local chief executives have been directed to temporarily waive the usual permits and requirements for the repair and restoration of telecom facilities and cell sites for the duration of the state of calamity.

Class resumption

The Department of Education has given the go-signal for classes to resume on Monday to public schools in the metropolis, Rizal province and surrounding areas.

"It is a general rule, classes are back," the President said.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said classes would resume on Monday in the metropolis, Rizal and other provinces except in areas where the schools are inaccessible or are being used as evacuation centers.

To make up for the class days that were lost and the limited availability of classrooms, Lapus has proposed two-shift classes, holding classes on Saturdays, and cancellation of the semestral break.

Classes in Metro Manila and surrounding areas were suspended from Wednesday to Friday in the wake of Ondoy.

Hospital cleanup

Besides said directives to clean up alternative evacuation sites were also given near yesterday "so we can relocate those that are occupying the schools, in preparation for the cleaning and clearing of schools for the resumption of classes."

Hospitals affected by the flooding are already being cleaned up and public areas cleared with high jet water hoses, he added.

Damage to agriculture by Ondoy has been estimated at P5.5 billion. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said certified seeds have already been "pre-positioned" with farmers in Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Laguna so that when the floodwaters go closer they can immediately start replanting to replace lost crops.

"If time can't be harvested by the end of Dec. 31, those will be available for January-February to allow us to recover our loss," said Yap.

Uncollected garbage

Annoyed by reports that mounting piles of garbage in some metro streets were stalling traffic and increasing threats of disease, Mr Arroyo ordered local government officials to mobilize trucking companies and get private contractors to collect household trash in 72 hours.

"Traffic was very bad. The secondary roads are still full of garbage," she said.

The contractors should have now garbage trucks as part of their "voluntary work," she said.

Bayani Fernando, the Metro Manila Development Authority chair, said the uncollected garbage was "10 times" more than the daily volume produced by households and markets.

He said the government "can't do it alone," and appealed to residents to find ways in disposal of their garbage, including thanking biodegradable food items the toilet.

Massive cleanup

MMDA general manager Roberto Nazareno said that although the MMDA is undertaking a massive cleanup operation, the local government are the ones tasked to coordinate with garbage collectors.

"We can only pile them up but collecting them is not part of our work," said Nazareno, who was leading clearing operations in Bahrain, Marikina, yesterday.

Nazareno said MMDA employees have been working extended hours since last Saturday and have barely had a rest.

"There's still so much to do but we're actually enjoying it because we see that the residents are appreciating what we do," he said.

Marikina cleanup

He said the MMDA is still focused on cleaning up Marikina, the hardest-hit area, but said areas still operations to Pasig and Taguig.

"It will probably take us a week to finish. There's a lot of mud and debris that have to be taken care of," he said.

Mabalo said the MWSS is commencing work on dredging operations in evacuation centers because of pipes of sediment and debris that are accumulating inside tanks.

Mr Arroyo said that she had ordered Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Home Development Mutual Fund, known as Pag-Ibig, to provide an investment of housing improvement loan of P150,000 to Pag-Ibig members whose homes were damaged by the flood and mud.

The Manila Electric Co. said power has been fully restored to all of Metro Manila as of yesterday. Meralco had to cut off electricity to several cities and municipalities that were heavily flooded last Saturday.

The company said in a statement that it was now conducting a thorough meter-to-meter check of the affected households in a precautionary and safety measure.

With a report from Amy Remo

AGAINST the Pasig City skyline, Barangay Sta. Ana in Taguig City looks like the poor relation. It's still mired in floodwaters a full week after "Ondoy." So are other areas near Laguna de Bay, which has risen to record-breaking levels.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 4, 2009
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 2:18-24

"Yahweh God said, "It is not good for Man to be alone; I will give him a helper who will be like him." Then Yahweh God formed from the earth all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air and brought them to Man to see what he would call them; and whatever Man called every living creature, that was its name."

Psalm: Ps 127:1-5

Ah! Many are the visitors of the people, the lands of the air and in every house of the field. But he did not find among them a helper like himself. Then Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to come over Man; and he fell asleep. He took one of his ribs and filled its place with flesh. The rib which Yahweh God had taken from Man he formed into a woman and brought her to the man. The man then said, "Here this is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken from man." That is why man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and with her becomes one flesh.

2nd Reading: Heb 2:9-11

Jesus, who suffered death and for a little while was placed lower than the angels has been crowned with honor and glory for the sacrificial plan of God who marked that he experience death on behalf of everyone.

"God, from whom all come and by whom all things exist, wanted to bring many children to glory, and he thought it fitting to make perfect through suffering the initiator of their salvation. So he who gives and those who receive holiness are one. He himself is not ashamed of calling us brothers and sisters.

Gospel: Mk 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came and put him to the test with this question, "Is it right for a husband to divorce his wife?" He replied, "What law did Moses give you?" They answered, "Moses allowed us to write a certificate of dismissal in order to divorce."

"It was out of your stubborn hearts that he put you, because you are stubborn. But in the beginning of creation God made them male and female. And because of this, man has to leave father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one body. So there are no longer two but one body. Therefore let no one separate what God has joined."

When they were indoors at home, the disciples again asked him about this and he told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against his wife, and the woman who divorces her husband and marries another also commits adultery."

People were bringing their little children to him to have him touch them, and the disciples rebuked them for this.

When Jesus noticed it, he was very angry and said, "Let the children come to me and don't stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and began to bless them, blessed them.

Commentary:

The title of a recent popular book suggests that Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus. The author points out the different ways men and women in this way they think and act that they must be from different planets.

His earlier of that book speaks to hyperbole, of course, but his observations are clear. The author of the book of Genesis tells a different story. In fact, if Genesis were to be told as a popular novel it might well be entitled Men and Women Are From Eden. They are created by God in a complementary fashion. They are created to be partners in harmony with each other and to live in a state of blessed mutuality. "They are no longer two, but one body."

Sadly, when sin enters the equation, this mutuality is lost, suppressed and is made more difficult to sustain. Divorce and general abuse are the painful reminders of the effects of sin. God's plan for the second account God set in Genesis is recalled and reaffirmed by the Lord Jesus as he chastises man's misery to the love of a successful. By His grace we men and women find in holy matrimony a covenant of life giving love.

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Bar, teachers' exams push through today

THE LAST DAY OF THE 2009 BAR EXAMinations will push through today since the weather bureau has lifted the storm signal over Metro Manila, Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez said yesterday.

The high court postponed the exams scheduled last Sept. 27 after most of Metro Manila and surrounding provinces were submerged by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

About 6,000 prospective lawyers are set to take the final exams at the De La Salle University-Taft Ave., Manila campus. It will score remedial law, legal ethics and practical exercises.

The Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) will also push through as scheduled today.

Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) commissioner Ruth Padilla said 81,377 aspiring educators nationwide are expected to take the LET. Of the number of examinees, 18,562 are set to take the LET in Metro Manila.

The original schedule for the LET was on Sept. 27 but was delivered by the PRC due to Ondoy.

Examinees must bring and present their Sept. 27 LET admission slip and a valid identification card to the testing centers where they have been assigned.

Those who fail to take the test today may take the examination on April 2010. Dawn Z. Pinnchogon and Jeannette I. Andrade

US labor union takes cudgels for Pinoy teachers

By Jerome Aning

AN EDUCATION LABOR UNION IN THE United States has been in support to some 200 Filipino teachers allegedly being exploited by their recruiter in Louisiana.

In a statement, the American Federation of Teachers said that the Filipinos' complaints against Universal Placement International Inc. offshoot Interlink Los Angeles, have been brought before the Louisiana Workforce Commission in the state capital Baton Rouge.

The teachers have accused their recruiter of violating labor laws and charging exorbitant and illegal fees, in consequence of which would cause loss of their jobs and visas.

"U.S.-based investigations have cast the allegations—and we believe they will—that the ugly needs is that teachers are being treated like chattel in the U.S. in the 21st century, with the support of tax dollars," AFT president Randi Weingarten said in a statement posted on AFT's website.

Weingarten called on the Louisiana state officials to take steps to protect the teachers from further exploitation, to "thoroughly" investigate the allegations, to seek the return of any fees collected illegally, to "aggressively" prosecute the recruiter if violations are found, to enforce existing state laws to prevent future abuses, and to enact additional laws to regulate recruitment agencies.

Founded in 1916, AFT is the US' second largest education union and is based in Washington, D.C. It represents more than 1.4 million teachers.

The plight of the Filipino teachers were exposed by the militant group Partido ng Manggagawa in November 2008. The teachers, recruited by UPI's partner, PASS International Placement Agency, were deployed in five different school districts in Louisiana but most of them are in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

The teachers said their original contract stipulated that the payment of their monthly pays for two years shall be paid to the agency. However, the teachers paid upfront to obtain 20 percent of "imprest" pays based on the set pay.

The teachers also claimed that their contracts were signed and its contents disclosed to them only several days or even a day before their scheduled flight. Also the teachers are reportedly in debt bondage since they were forced to take out loans to pay the $4,000 to $10,000 placement fees.

The teachers said they were forced to live in dilapidated, pest infested apartments despite the presence of better and cheaper apartments around the area.

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JESUS IS LORD

Sa hulip na magdiwang ng ating ika-31 anibersaryo, minobuti ng pamunuan ng Jesus Is Lord Church na kanselahin ang pagdiriwang sa Luneta ngayong 04 Oktubre 2009.

Bagkus, isang simple at sinserong sama-samang PANANALANGIN AT PANINILUHOD PARA SA PAGBANGON NG PILIPINAS ang ating gagawin mamayang alas-3 ng hapon sa PUP Gym, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Lahat po ng ating tulong pinansyal, materyal at serbisyo ay ilalaan natin sa mga biktima ng bagyong Ondoy.

Sa kasalukuyan, mahigit 50,000 pamilya na ang nabigyan ng relief goods at pangunahing pangangailangan ng ating JIL iCare Compassion Ministry.

Gayunpaman, napakalaki pa rin ng pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayang nasalanta ang dapat tugunan.

Tumulong tayo sa ating kapwa. Makibahagi tayo sa pagbibigay ng pag-asa sa ating lnang Bayan.

Para sa donasyon sa iCare Compassion Ministry: Ipadala sa Mailkother Office, 8th Floor, Shaw 2000 Bldg. F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City o sa alin mang JIL Church sa inyong lugar.

BRO. EDDIE C. VILLANUEVA
Founder and Head of Jesus Is Lord Church Worldwide

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ISSN 0115-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 29 No. 299

OPINION

Apocalyptic

EDITORIAL

THERE IS A PRESSING NEED FOR THE AUTHORITIES to convene a commission of inquiry to look at how the devastation caused by recent typhoons were handled by the government. This is not an issue that will go away. In the National Capital Region, the flooding may take weeks to subside; the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts will take months. There is the possibility that further typhoons might reverse some of the work done.

If in recent weeks the nation has been united to remember, it is now united in grief and—we do not think it's an exaggeration to say—anger. All of stiff-thinkers, no whichever side of the aisle, in whatever of fire, is in the dock. As the public demands accountability, we won't be surprised if officials react by finger-pointing, dodging the issues, or fudging the facts. The public needs to know who did their duty, did it well, or did it badly; and what can be done, institutionally and operationally, to improve disaster response and rehabilitation efforts.

As it is, not just our present officials but a long line of government people stretching back decades are in the dock, too; together with those who've benefited, in the public sector, from whimsical or lackadaisical, inconsistent or downright unfair and negligent planning and zoning regulations and from the continuing destruction of forests and watershed areas. Coddled constituencies and those that rely on them for votes or funding are now bearing the brunt of a political system that makes consistent and rational planning virtually impossible.

From the urban poor (kept poor so they can serve as captive voters for local politicians) to those who mobilize the poor even when government seeks to relocate them simply on the principle that government can never do anything good, to the developers of middle- and upper-class subdivisions, to the officials who permit development without regard to environmental planning, to the businesses that blithely build over esteros and other natural drainage mechanisms—these constituencies will all attempt to maneuver to avoid changing their status quo.

Our communities as a whole will continue paying the price—though we detect a willingness, born out of trauma, on the part of the public to start making tough choices and require the enforcement of strict regulations, so long as government shows political will. But it cannot be the kind of political will simply exercised to stimulate government; it has to be the kind that makes tough decisions based on real facts, without regard to personal, political or financial gain on the part of our leaders.

So it must begin with a concerted effort to study the causes of so much human misery and destruction, including a timeline of events and the cataloguing of the factors that got in the way of an efficient yet compassionate preparation for, and response to, the disasters that have struck.

Whether it comes from past studies, city and zoning plans that took into account natural phenomena such as where water flows and tends to accumulate, or that provided for adequate drainage; or that regulated population densities; or that took note of the reality (known for decades now) of sinking land levels due to the draining of underground water reservoirs as a result of the unregulated use of domestic and industrial water pumps; or that tolerated informal settler communities along riverbanks; the facts must be surveyed and reported.

And whether by commission or omission, the squandering of government funds due to corruption, the misuse of funds for political purposes, the hiring of incompetent officials and the filling of honest or capable ones, jealousies among government departments or the refusal of local factions to even consider reorganizing themselves, particularly in a sprawling metropolis, must be identified, documented, reported and vilified, too.

We hope government will rise to the occasion and create an independent commission. But if one's headed for a whitewash, then the public must be prepared to continue one in the private sector. We got a glimpse of the apocalypse, and it has put the fear of God in the populace.

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Nationalism in our public schools

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I RECEIVED RECENTLY A LETTER FROM A faithful friend of mine who complimented me on that column I wrote about studying during the American regime, the opposite topic, however, that there were very few of our contemporaries left to appreciate it because most of them have gone to another world to join our teachers.

The herald is still spry at 81 and even sent me a copy of an article on the years when she to "Looking Forward to My Next Twenty Years." His Concordia S. Intoy was invited my wife and me to her graduation on April 30, 2008, with the degree of Master in Educational Management from the Ugnayan Universal and bestowed by Emilio F. Lanuza.

The letter I receive from my occasional correspondents of the past are a little different from hers because their write from a younger generation from mine. My well-wishers thank me for telling them how it was during my time, which was quite different from theirs. For one thing, "Thank you, ma'am" and "Good morning, sir" were a commonplace with us. I wrote in this column many years ago when I surprised an old lady for whom I had done a small favor and whose shocked reaction was: "Thank you, sir! You're a gentleman!"

The grade school where I graduated in 1937 was quite different from its present state of deterioration where practical necessities have rendered the old classrooms with their polished floors and even their benches, the elegant mirrors when the students marched to their lessons every morning, the lush bougainvilleas that bordered the wide campus, are faded memories now. The high school we attended later was less impressive of the material things but they also fill our minds with fine memories for the things that were part of my youth.

What really mattered to us then that I remember now was the discipline we enjoyed in our classes, those who made victims out of the victims, shame on you. For those who sincerely helped us prosper, God's handkerchief blessing be upon you.

* * *

Today is gone, but its lessons remain. **One lesson is left behind is the reality of an unsafe** truth to our lives—material, emotional, spiritual truth which we cared to disguise of as we go through life. Indeed, how light and peaceful life is if we carry no burdens, and carry no truth. On the contrary is the sword. One other big lesson we all need to learn is to care for Mother Earth. Someone said: God forgives, people forgive, but nature does not.

* * *

When we go through crisis and troublesome, one thing going for us is what the great thinker as Fr. Francis de la Costa, SJ called the three gifts of Filipinos, namely: laughter, smile and faith. Let's all hang on to these gifts dear!

* * *

Start again. That is the call for all of us as individuals, as a family, as a nation. We are still alive. Let us go back to the basics. We still don't need much to live life. All we need is life itself, and love. Again, think about it. Misery can be recovered, stupid arguments can be resolved, but the life of a person or a loved one is irreplaceable. And when asked if your cup is half empty or half full, someone suggested that the best response is, "Thank God, I have a cup!"

* * *

The "Walk with God" from Urdaneta to Binmaley, Pangasinan has been postponed to next Saturday, Oct. 10. It will start at 6 a.m. from Urdaneta Cathedral. Join us in the thanksgiving and petition walk for ourselves, for our country, for the world on this month of the rosary.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, as I go through life, help me to carry hardens and carry so much. Amen.

Trash

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE ONCE SAID THAT WHEN A PERson gets into deep trouble, he/she is surrounded by classes (friends and family). If you don't believe this, just take a look at your wedding picture today.

* * *

From time to time we tell jokes about married couples. But that is not at all to belittle the sanctity and permanence of marriage. In today's Gospel (Mk. 10, 2-16) Jesus is very clear and emphatic: "Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." Marriage is forever, and for always.

* * *

Notice how, right after His discourse on the permanence and sanctity of marriage, Jesus turns His attention to the children, puts His arm around them, lays His hands on them and gives them His blessing. It is His children who matter. If a marriage is just a "you and I" matter and leaves God out of the picture altogether.

* * *

As adults, we were somehow able to deal with the difficulties and challenges brought about by the current crisis. Today, I imagine if we adults were not there to protect the little ones who were helpless and vulnerable. Also in life, the children need to learn, and need to feel, security and protection from their parents, and truth a need is not especially when there is harassing stability and permanence in marriage.

* * *

Divorce and separation, in whatever form, is painful and devastating. Tropical storm Ondoy made us experience what it is like to be forcibly alienated from loved ones, properties, conveniences and even from life itself. How fragile life is, and how fleeting worldly possessions are—indeed, everything can be gone in an instant. Everything we have worked for and heaped up can be washed away in a moment, just like that.

* * *

At least we are still alive." True. There isn't much, in fact there is nothing really left to cling to when we are left with only misfortune strikes us. Such is the human condition. We are helpless, vulnerable and mortal. How futile to place God, and pretend that we are gods. The answer we realize this in life, the better.

* * *

Thank God for rooftops! They served as the only refuge for countless people who had no other place to go amid the raging floodwaters. "Take the high ground!" in life too, we all have to learn to rise up, no matter what.

* * *

This is no time for finger-pointing, but we can't help but ask: Why was there no prompt and adequate response from the government when many people needed it most? Where did all the people's money go? Those who elected on public funds instead for the common good have a lot of answering and explaining to do. The human line in: Did I, as a public servant, contribute to ever poor people's suffering?

* * *

A lot of heroic and edifying stories can be told of good samaritans who went out of their ways to be of help and to others. One such good samaritan was 38 year-old Mindoro Magbanua who saved 50 people or so in Manila Ayala-area Pillage latches for himself and others after making one more dive to save a baby floating in a styrofoam box. As for those who never reached out or did so for personal gain, or worse, those who made victims out of the victims, shame on you. For those who sincerely helped us prosper, God's handkerchief blessing be upon you.

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Melo welcomes e-Hope 2010

JUSTICE JOSE A. R. MELO, CHAIRMAN OF THE Commission on Elections, welcomed the proposal to forge a national consensus for an electronic, honest, orderly and peaceful election in 2010 (e-Hope 2010). In a telephone conversation, he thanked me, assuring that dialogue is absolutely needed to resolve fears, doubts and difficulties in the automation system.

Creative solutions. We gainfully conceded that being the first attempt at nationwide automation, the system could have some gaps and weaknesses that are 1-write-in-1st-read. The challenge is not to belabor the past but to look forward, with a hope in me. The questions and the answers will be joined on as e-Hope 2010 vehicles that will be operational shortly. I will also publish some of them in this space.

* * *

Premature campaigning. Let me now tackle, as promised, some ramifications of the Supreme Court decision in Fenera vs Comelec (Sept. 11, 2009), penned by Justice Mirla N. Claire Velasco, decreeing that once duly certificate of candidacy (COC) is filed, candidates may undertake engage in campaigning or other partisan activities until the official start of the campaign period.

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio T. Pangandaman

If then-do, they would be disqualified from continuing as candidates, or if already elected, from holding the office to which they have been so elected. Additionally, they may also face criminal prosecution for the same acts. This decision (but from Nov. 30, 2009 (the last day for filing COCs) until July 8, 2010 (the official start of the campaign period), candidates may no longer undertake any activity in premature their elections.

The purpose of the ban, according to the Court, "is to level the playing field between the popular or rich candidates, on one hand, and the lesser known or poorer candidates, on the other, by allowing them to campaign only within the same limited period... the choice [by the voter]... should not be swayed by the candidates' financial war chest, but with, of some individuals who are able to spend to extend to promote their candidacies in advance of the period allotted for campaigns activities."

Examples of banned activities. The difficult problem is how to determine some common premature campaigning and other partisan political activities. The Election Code simply refers to them as all acts "designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate."

Such acts include (1) "forming organizations... for the purpose of soliciting votes and/or undertaking any campaign for or against a candidate, (2) holding political caucuses, conferences, meetings, rallies, parades, or other similar assemblies, (also) for the purpose of soliciting votes... (3) Making speeches, announcements or commentaries, or holding interviews for or against the election of any candidate; (4) Publishing or distributing campaign literature or materials designed to support or oppose the election of any candidate; or (5) Directly or indirectly soliciting votes, pledges or support for or against a candidate."

Can a journalist who is not running for public office be held liable for criticizing a candidate during the prohibited period? Yes, premature campaigning for or against a candidate can be committed by "any person whether or not a voter or a candidate." In the same manner, radio-TV commentators can commit the offense.

Penalty. Sec. 80 in fine, 9, all campaign activities "designed to promote the election or defeat of any candidate or any candidate's nomination or any of his/her/their set campaign activities" are banned because according to Chavez vs Comelec (Aug. 21, 2006)... each commission has indirectly promotes candidacies. For the same reason, the giving of "donations gifts (like calendars) by candidates, their campaigns in basketball games, medical missions, motorcades, etc. and the showing of their movies and TV series would also be outlawed.

The Landmark decision on premature campaigning is the case penned by Justice Leo Bersamin, in which the issue posed by the dismissed-but by Justice Antonio T. Carpio. Suffice it to say for laypersons that the judgment is not per final and is subject to a motion for reconsideration. The majority will have two votes less than to the retirements on Oct. 1 of Justices Dante Tinga, Minita Chico-Nazario and Conchita Carpio Morales, and the dissenting votes by the powerful Justice Ricardo Palmo (on the other hand, Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing who voted with the majority in writing on Nov 8).

Indeed, this decision could be reversed or flushed out on reconsideration, if the replacements of these two retiring justices vote with the minority of seven (or six, if we subtract retiring Justice Quisumbing). Or if the replacements decline to vote. Or, if the Court resolves the matter without waiting for all the replacements. -Manggad

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Comments are welcome at tbo@inquirer.net.ph and tbo@hotmail.com

Lessons from 'teacher' Ondoy

YESTERDAY, WE MARKED THE FIRST WEEK anniversary of the massive floods that inundated Metro Manila and victimize in the course of tropical storm "Ondoy."

We got a big scare Friday evening as unbeknownst (and thus unheeded) people of Antipolo received the unkind of a "super typhoon" with the unnerving name of "Pepeng." But as I write this, Pepeng seems to have passed the periphery of Luzon, leaving minimal damage. I hope I don't have to eat my words.

The week which could perhaps be described as the "worst week of our lives"—at least for thousands of people like my family—I've decided to compile a number of "lessons learned" from "teacher" Ondoy. Indeed, we learn from every experience, even from the worst of them. Some people call it destructive learning process by ways of suffering and loss.

These are lessons I learned while waiting out the nights of darkness and damp, realizations that occurred to me in the empty hours staring out at the dark sky, or passing time while filling the pails of rainwater that seeped through roofing and water on the floors. These are thoughts that shattered the heavy quiet listening to the radio or watching TV news, plunging us not just into despair, but outside anger.

Some lessons I learned from the bench of Ondoy:

• You can go for days without brushing your teeth with no untoward consequences to your health. Our mothers were wrong. We won't die from dental plaque or caries. And when the downpours of the water that flows through your faucet is restored, you'll be able to brush teeth and comb your hair to the same norm.

• The radio is your best friend. Before the flood, we had iPods, mobile media phones, TV sets, DVD players galore. When water started rising in our homes, we realized then the electricity will be out—gone two frustrating days in my case—in Luzon's place next door getting my news only from radio communications devoted not by neighbors passing-by. Only by Day 3 was my brother-in-law able to buy a small, cheap transistor. But judging by the way we huddled in pressure, you'd think he bought

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

an entire entertainment center. TV went dark on the second day, leaving us only with radio—trying to buy countless our own transistor radio. And wouldn't you know it, those weren't on available in the entire Old Manila mall!

* * *

• DUFF is just stuff. I watched in frustration as chairs I had bought just a few months ago were ridiculous at the mark, limp and bent out of shape. DVDs I hadn't even had the time to watch marked up from the dirty water, though my neighbor says with some careful cleaning, I might be able to watch them again. I wasted a few grams of precious and needed tears only every piece I resurrected. But before then, I resigned myself to their fate, realizing that my life would go on even if they ended up in the trash.

• Be kind to your house help. Manila gossip has it that many of the looters who were helped by our overall house help and our laundrywomen, who roped in their neighbors and my house help's son to assist in the cleanup. Of course, they will be paid for their efforts, and in fact—some from a sensitive others paid some monies before and during the cleanup, offering their services, aware perhaps that there would be plenty of jobs available. Putting a value on the manual labor of a trained corps of helpers is difficult. We can pay them their salaries, but how can we pay them for their loyalty? Their love? What price can we put on their willingness to wade through inches-high mud and dig their hands into dark and dank waters?

• Be kind to your neighbors. We had no trouble finding shelter with my sister-in-law's family next door because—first of all, they've been

fly-fest my sister-Jean, who lives in a nearby village particularly prone to flooding. And to this their home, with two daughters and two pet dogs in tow, and knock on the gate of a neighbor who had a roof deck. "What if we had brought with their cars—a sedan!" my sister asked with a shudder, recalling the two days they spent on the roof deck, subsisting on biscuits. So it pays to be kind to neighbors and other strangers, for you never know when you might depend on them for your very life!

* * *

• SAVED should be on the "essentials" list of any local government or government agency. For a country that has been subjected to massive floods since even the Spanish times, we tend to take natural disasters for granted. Now that even the rich have felt the fear of the way, Filipinos are quite vocal about rain gear, pointing to every street crossing our heads with handkerchiefs or plastic envelopes instead of arming ourselves with umbrellas. That's all to true of boats. Why can't every city, every town, every province allot a number of these boats for floods, inflatable rafts, life preservers and jackets—given how often our streets and towns get flooded? Why do we have to scramble about for boats from the Navy, the Coast Guard and even the Philippine Red Cross when we could have them on hand for the plan drawn up by a volunteer for another paper, in which he designed a barangay hall with an inflatable boat on the roof, and hidden hanging from the windows, those that's survival set?

• Be kind to the plastic bag for relief efforts. I was only human reaction to the sight of a speaking engagement is heeded, and on the way back we got to talking about his advocacy, the "Do your bottle." Along with some friends, they concerned the idea of providing every school child with a plastic bag to be used as a raincoat during a dry Ondoy (chills since many illnesses in evacuation centers), medicines for colds and diarrhea, bottled water, biscuits, a flashlight and other survival gear. The pail can be used as a flotation device, says Angelo, and that can be used to fetch water later. Makes perfect sense to me!

The language of genomics

BALIBO, CEBU—LAST WEEK, A COMPANY called Complete Genomics announced 30 new genomes to be sequenced by year's end. The price was not specified, but the company said its goal is to offer the service for $5,000 within a year.

What struck me was not the announcement it self, but the name of the CEO: Cliff Reid, the CEO when I knew him in the 1980s and early 1990s was my called Steve. The conversion hit me almost immediately. Genes are, in a sense, the interaction language for building humans (or any other living thing). The language is encoded in sequences of four basic nucleotides, yes, of course, it was the same Cliff Reid I knew back in the late 1980s.

What Complete Genomics is doing with the $60 million it has raised so far is exciting. It has developed a process to sequence human DNA faster and cheaper than the current process. And if the problems prove to be unsurmountable, the options should include a return to normal sense.

In case of the interaction, Melo asked Commissioner Rene V. Sarmiento to call me. Acting on my suggestion for him to answer questions and clarify doubts, fearsomes and readers may send their queries or comments to him at the Comelec head office in Intramuros, Manila or better yet, e-mail them at the following addresses: rvsarmiento@... with a copy to me. The questions and the answers will be posted on as e-Hope 2010 vehicles that will be operational shortly. I will also publish some of them in this space.

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Many waters

IN MY HEAD, I CALL IT THE STORM. I HEAR THE LETTERS from, whenever someone says it, voluntarily. I do. I don't give it a name, naming gives a thing power, and the Storm has too much.

I'll tell you where I was when it happened, because everyone does—I was in the office, I was in school, I was in the jobs others. I heard—saying it, again and again, because saying it means you're alive. I was in the apartment, and there was water swallowing cars in nearby houses much. I'll say I was a writer first, and because I was over the door with a camera before I understood that Sweet Water I was being flooded, and the water rising in the hallways was water rising in my hallways. The water whipped like snakes, and the snakes was a bite, like physics that through huge houses. The maintenance men was hanging at doors...get ready, get ready, it could still get worse.

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

It did, but it was the one of worse that I'm grateful for, as I'm sure what the Storm can do when it decides. I know what it did to dirty puddles, to the mud that covered the first floor of houses they lived in for 30 years, and they raced up a ladder to the rampaging wet, over a fence, across a neighbor's lawn, carrying two toddler grandchildren and very much afraid. I know my mother cried when she came home and found nothing left...maybe her wedding video of old lipstick in the bath-tub. I know my sister was balling upon upstairs because reading the lipstick meant she had something left. I know what it did to my father, and I do not mean the mud on the one shirt he had left. That first day, I saw him attempting to sweep water out of the house with a wet broom. I knew he was afraid he couldn't protect his wife and the babies, and I know that he was afraid for me. I hadn't been to church in three Sundays, a pile of old muddy papers in the bath. My father has been collecting everything. For various since I started to another paper, old, unto other columns, two copies every morning, one cut carefully, to be pasted on pages of autobiography paper and clipped into a clear book, the other folded into a square, on the off chance he loses the other. I know what it did to my father, and I know that my father won't let go. He's still saying to wipe off the mud.

And still I know I'm grateful, because my mother is around to wash lines of lipstick, and my father is here to shake his head at his balling son and at his grandkids who tell him unhappily they want to go home. I am grateful I am not the girl who was looking for her cat, and who was trapped somewhere in the shape of a man, the girl in the backpack and ponytail who found out her daddy didn't make it out of the water. I'll tell you their stories now, because that's what we do, we tell stories, all of us, to pretend that telling them makes sense of them. I'll tell you about the three lawyer men who could not find their wives, and the wife who found her husband, who told reporters, like a man performing battle-cry dead, that he felt no worry, because he knew they were alive. Their bodies were found the next day.

There was the student, whose soldier son died while carving civilians from the flood. They gave her son a commendation and a flag. She said she'll trade all the commendations in the world to have her son back. There was the woman, whose tragedy was recorded on national television, who took the tassel of his house in the raging flood with his father on a basket and his wife beside him. They rose and fell with the waves, and when they reached the pier under the tin sheets for help, the woman cried out to send children and a mother first.

I'll tell you how it is, in the middle of a storm. Panic, when walking means slipping into water up to your waist, water that creeps under skirt and skin. This is how it looks in a street corner in Pasaghuhan, as the rain sits in a puzzling blankly, and food comes in a truck filled with soldiers and mothers and 17 year old college students. The street fills, in a sudden crash of water, and the soldiers and the students and the blue plastic boxes they carry to hold babies and hopefully the plastic bag of rice and noodles and the rare fresh egg. Once a day this happens, and if they're lucky, they get to stand by the side of an old electric post and compare the bulk of their previous bags. There are refugees that this day mean access to water, bags of rice, and relief from a low direction. There are women whose husbands are electric drivers now pushing makeshift boats made of wood and are we leaders, who go home every night to fight off the rest dog, their mosquitoes. The last flood. Knee-high, years ago, took a month to ebb away. They don't know how long it will take, and the water rises and falls in a pattern that is like the fury will leap, and play dress on a soggy board, and make sure where's hair and comes her and hold these babies close, because it could have been worse.

The first time I made it home after the flood...I took a cab whose driver asked me how badly was, and if a cab could get through. I said it was bad, he said he was bringing with ripped plastic bags, tanned Chateaux roses, decorated by mud dots. The driver shook his head, and I asked how he was. They stayed on a roof last night, he said. But even that soon roof, because their house was soggy away. Where will you go, I asked. He doesn't know, only that he has to work today. He has to go home. He thanked. That's what you have, he did too, that day I came home. He pulled me out and showed me our old Widowspeak, decades old, a fixture in the street my parents would never—and I suspect, could never sell. It ate exactly where it was while every car on the road flipped belly up. It banished us in corners, summering in 20 corners of many, and it was there that I was born, cowering in pain. My Dad said it was our stubborn pardon, and pitched it on the head, laughing—proud of one his little car who dented a rusty middle finger to the sky and refused to budge.

I'll tell you how it is blame for this, too, laughing I still go long my father and kiss my mother and buy lollipops and shoes for my nieces and nephews, and cheer on two middle fingers on the pedestrian overpass who are happily scamping their names on food packs, and so on in particular who claimed someone else's donations were for while customers rolled. But there's another column. Today, I'm giving my Dad something to cut out.

THEY SAID

The right message

"I would rather that our plan realize of contemplation of together rather than give the US the opinion as dirty dial. It by saying that we are willing to cooperate. This will send a stronger message that no base had enough of this downright uncontinental treaty."

—Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada, on the Visiting Forces Agreement

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: yanmaps@inquirer.com.ph

Lira Jean V. Sarmiento Jr.

Reminders from little brother Ondoy

"Life is a game of chess, wrote Benjamin Franklin. Chess is life, according to Bobby Fischer. Just apply the lessons until love, patience and understanding. And passion. The whole world is the chessboard, the space that holds the characters, each an independent piece, but collectively interlinked in all that do. Like in real life, the play never ends. Every move counts, every turn a lesson." — Odette Alcantara (1948-2009)

By Anna Maria M. Gonzales

ONE OF OUR FUNDAmental planning goals at home is that most of what we now use as residential areas in Metro Manila were parts of floodplains and riverbeds. Subdivisions were built on former wetlands, rivers and creeks, which were "tamed" or become straight, or cemented over to become roads or to create more space for sale.

People cement over open spaces and natural vegetation, destroying the earth's capacity to drain storm water naturally. Simply put, we are in the way of the natural landscape processes in our very fragile and geologically young archipelago.

Flooding is a natural process. Floods bring nutrients to ecosystems along waterways and make it possible for various forms of life to thrive.

Floodplains

Problems arise when settlements sprout on floodplains, or when people insist on tampering with the natural shape of rivers and tributaries. Builders insist on making water travel in a straight line instead of showing it down by following the river's natural contours.

When we cover the earth with concrete, it loses its ability to absorb rainwater. It is not only trees that help us prevent floods; water itself is also absorbed by the various types of indigenous vegetation, like grasses and shrubs that grow along riverbanks.

Tropical storm "Ondoy" is a reminder that rivers have been here before us. It reminds us that we've been remiss in trying to find long-lasting solutions to the problems of urban settlements. We've simply allowed developers to cover too many wetlands.

We've also allowed ourselves to buy into their concept of development and be seduced by the idea of the "house-and-lot" dream.

That dream made our cities sprawl out and obliterated natural waterways with the roads that had to lead to them. There were roads made so they can go that we could get to our homes. The increased pollution, carbon emissions and general mess made us sit bulk. Subdivisions near the former land and in former agricultural lands or wetlands even displaced rural people and increased land prices.

Roads turn into rivers

The images from the aftermath of Ondoy were very telling. On the one hand, roads turned into rivers, houses submerged by mud and cars being carried away by currents.

On the other, images of people helping one another were very inspiring.

Perhaps, we can harness that communal spirit in preventing disasters from happening again. We could start by rethinking where we live and how we live. We could compel authorities to execute that those who wish to settle in marginal land become their main to be sure their jobs are given a chance to live in safer areas.

It may mean the end of the practice of gated communities that tend to be homogenous and therefore keep the poor out.

It could mean the start of new forms of communities, where the rich, the middle class and the poor live right next to each other so that all are out of harm's way. It's not too late. More generations will inherit the earth. If we start soon, we will be doing our grandchildren a favor.

Way forward

Many people may not be prepared to look beyond their basic survival needs. It is too easy to be mired in helplessness (what's the use of thinking ahead?) or be angry at the absence of developing new solutions or designs.

There is no perfect solution, no perfect house design, no perfect institutional setup and no perfect early warning systems.

It doesn't mean, however, that we shouldn't respect our environment just because it's imperfect and uncomfortable. I say that because the best way we can live on this planet is to get to know it very well, so that whatever we add to or subtract from it will not destroy Earth.

So how does one have a bet-

PART of an interactive map of Metro Manila and nearby areas showing the maximum height of floods spawned by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" on Sept. 26. The map was developed by Alfredo Mahar Lagmay of the National Institute of Geological Sciences, University of the Philippines. Go to http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&msid=110569870511112660008.0004746d3b01e81e3f3&ie=UTF8&z=11 and update the map.

A RESIDENT of Kanagawan Village in Cainta, Rizal, rows an evangelista's dog.

How to add to the database

- You need to have a Gmail account and signed in
- Then press the edit button and add the placemark. I'm assuming (since it's not) you use the Google Earth interface plotting the location
- Input the flood heights in the title and follow the legends below
- In additional info, you can add the magnitude of the typhoon in the title too
- When completed, this turn-over to a public sharing picture feeds on Metro Manila and ten nearby provinces, "just without the Marikina River simulations," said Alfredo Mahar Lagmay of the UP Diliman

VEHICLES in a flooded street in Capas, Tarlac.

Past Facts

455 millimeters
Amount of rainfall dumped by Storm Ondoy in 24 hours

391.7 ml
Average rainfall in Metro Manila for the entire September

283
Number of people killed by Ondoy (as of Oct. 2)

P5.2 billion
Estimated cost of damage

10,214
Number of houses destroyed or damaged

726
Number of evacuation centers (as of Oct. 1)

3.2 million
Number of people affected

Sources: Manila Water, Metro Pacific Investments Corp., Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Disaster Coordinating Council

ter quality of life after Ondoy? There are some personal questions I'd like to share. I can come up with a long list, but right now, let the focus on two questions that I am often asked: What kind of house is best and where should we live?

I have always been a big fan of houses on stilts because they are most appropriate for our tropical climate. It keeps us cooler, and the space on the ground by posts also offers some protection from flooding.

'Bahay-kubo' strategy

There is wisdom in our basic Tagalog bahay-kubo design. Most of it is not used in a living area. You could say that the sizing (or underside of the house) was our early climate-adaptation strategy. Not only does it prevent people from flooding, it also created natural ventilation to cool the house.

However, no matter how well-built your house is, it will not help you survive in a vulnerable area.

So let me get to the hardest part of my checklist on how to move on after Ondoy.

As I write this, people are working on (or are researching, or thinking about) rebuilding their slum areas in Metro Manila where settlements should be prohibited. I don't want to be the one telling you this, but there is a chance that many of us will have to abandon old neighborhoods or redevelop them so that they become less vulnerable. And I am not talking about lifting up low-lying areas or building dikes on the riverside.

Ecological restoration

There is a practice called ecological restoration, which involves giving back to nature its capacity to regenerate.

This means that some riverbanks will be allowed to go back to their natural shape (meandering) and the concrete removed from certain areas to allow water to be absorbed more quickly by the soil. Indigenous tree species will have to be planted. Why indigenous? Because they have the best chance of survival. Trees are not our only defense against flooding or in ill effects. Shrubs, grasslands and wetlands (yes, that swampy in your backyard) also serve as sponges that absorb and filter excess water.

For too long, the conventional wisdom in Metro Manila seems to have been to pave concrete on muddy areas, without thinking that there is a reason why these are muddy. They are nature's warning signs and sometimes we ignore build a strong enough dike or a big enough drainage system because a lot of times are naturally-active zones.

When we dump filling materials on low-lying areas (usually to "landscape" premises) we don't really solve anything. We just displace water and flooding occurs somewhere else. Eventually, flooding comes back to your place.

Inspect property

I'm joining this one because a lot of people have been duped into buying property in low-lying areas, riverbanks or creek sides and given the false hope that they can increase the evaluation of their property by selling filling materials.

So, if you're a prospective buyer, inspect the property before purchasing it. Also, do a tour of the area. After all, you may have a stress for a neighbor. Never believe anyone who advises to a friend. Drive when have I heard this term. Ay, wala na 'yon. Mangat na lang kinak dinadaan ng baha. Lagyan na lang ng kalsada. Ambahan na iyong, etc.)

I do not mind to leave people with a scenario in which they cannot be to control.

So let me leave you with one thought—there is something you can do and there are people you can rely on. But first you have to rely on yourselves. Organize your communities, look beyond your own needs and know your impact on the environment. All of us will have to make lifestyle choices that respect the environment.

Quick list

- Do not build up to the edges of your property. Make sure there is leave wild and vegetation all around you so that the soil drains properly. Resist the temptation to pave everything on the site with concrete. Consider using stepping stones or gravel pavers instead.
- Do not assume that it is safe to build on the edges of any waterway. Do not rely on the law on easements to protect you, even if it allows a five-meter easement and you are that is enough to build on with our existing set elevations, one-sided is calculations. If probably buys these pieces of land, our developers will be forced to rebuild and redo their plans.
- If you have empty lots in your vicinity, work with your neighborhood to plant them with appropriate vegetation, which prevents erosion, helps us water absorption on rainy days and becomes your sanctuaries in the dry season.
- We said it before and we'll say it again: Reduce, reuse and recycle. Learn how to compost, as you'll have a healthy garden, the ability to get rid of vegetation and the nutrients and creepy crawlers that come with them. They will be your early warning system for approaching calamities.

Anna Maria M. Gonzales is an architect, environmental planner, writer and birder. She's the executive planner of the Quezon City Wetland and Nature Park, and project planner for the renovation of the Ateneo School of Government in Quezon City. She's also the local governance and participation consultant/monitoring officer for Naga, Legazpi and Iriga Peninsula, La Union of the Project Management Office for the Urban Partnerships for Sustainable Settlements, Renewal, Governance and Empowerment Project (PMO/Ren and the World Bank.)

Across the NATION

'Pepeng' lets Albay keep helping Metro

Province execs, communities go full blast in relief campaign

NEARLY UNSCATHED by Typhoon "Pepeng," communities in the Bicol region that had feared disaster from the new storm pounced on the chance to continue helping victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in Metro Manila and Rizal province.

Residents of Albay from all walks of life, groups, private firms, local radio and TV stations, schools and local government units are launching a caravan to help Ondoy victims.

"Though Bicolanos are also prone are used to, enjoy the kindheartedness of the Manila people after Supertyphoon 'Reming' battered our province in 2006," said Jorrie Somarga who organized the 'Sta Rita Tanghalang 2009.'

She said participants in the caravans would pick up goods from all radio stations and municipalities in the province on the weekend with its stop in Metro Manila.

Somarga said the 46th Bfrd is equipped with eight dump trucks, two loaders, two boats, trucks, two fire trucks, a rating van, L-300 vans and other service vehicles.

She pay leaders and dump trucks would be used to help dredge muddy areas in Metro Manila, she said.

Somarga said however, a power company, donated P1 million in cash and bought canned sardines, blankets, pails, salt boxers, mats, mineral water and used clothing.

Disaster experts

Albay province earlier deployed volunteers composed of health, emergency and rescue experts to Daging Silangan, Quezon City.

Used to keeping watch on Mayon volcano, which is now on Alert Level 2, the experts shared their knowledge on disaster preparedness and rescue.

Gov. Joey Salceda said yesterday the group will continue to help Ondoy victims especially now that Albay was spared from Pepeng.

Albay health and disaster management teams—initially composed of nine men from the Provincial Health Office, 12 Army officers, three personnel from the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apemo) and three officials from the Provincial Social Welfare and Development...are now extending help to areas in Quezon City, said Almeida Walter Jr., Apemo plans and operations division chief.

Water

Aside from medical help, the Albay team continues to provide water through a water purifying machine, which was donated by the Spanish government to Albay after Reming.

The machine produces potable water at 32,000 liters per hour, said Salceda.

He said the team has served some 5,931 persons in Barangay Daging Silangan, Quezon City.

Lawyers affiliated with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Bicol and the Catholic Church, through its social action arm, also gave a hand.

Auxiliary Bishop Lucilo Quintelino, of the Archdiocese of Legazpi, said Albay had been recipients of so much generosity and love from people all over the world after Supertyphoons "Milenyo" and Reming in 2006.

"It is but proper and fitting that we return the favor now that we are given the opportunity to heed Christ's teaching to help our neighbors in need," said the bishop.

A bar was passed around em-

SWAMPED BY Typhoon "Pepeng," fishermen from the coastal village of Dalahican, Lucena City, find time to salvage catch fast.

THE FLOW of relief goods from various sources continues. Kristie Kenney, US ambassador to the Philippines, delivers to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), through Sen. Richard Gordon, boxes of relief goods from the US government. Gordon is chair of the PNRC.

ployees of the car manufacturing firm Toyota Autoparts Phils (TAP) Inc., in the village of Pulong Sta. Cruz in Sta Rosa City, Laguna, for Ondoy victims.

Workers

A minimum of P100 was asked from the workers which would be deducted from their salary in the next payday, said Ernie Bedesquer, corporate social responsibility coordinator of the firm.

As of Friday noon already gave an average of P50B each.

TAP's target collection is P500,000.

At least 14,956 families, mostly living along the lake shores, were left devastated by the flood in Sta. Rosa City alone. —Joy M. Yusot and Jhonnar Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

safety tips after a flood

After a flood hits your home, be very cautious before you power up, plug and turn on your appliances.

Check if your house is the only one without power or if it's the whole neighborhood. If your home is the only one without power, you need to check your home electrical system. Ask a competent **licensed electrician** to do this for you.

Please remember these helpful safety reminders:

- Make sure that the main electrical power switch or circuit breaker is turned off.
- Unplug all equipment and appliances. Turn off switches of permanently connected equipment. Unscrew all light bulbs if possible.
- Remove mud and dirt from the service equipment or main circuit breaker/fuse and its enclosure, using protective gear or equipment such as rubber gloves, rubber-soled shoes and well-insulated pliers.
- As a safety precaution always assume the wires are "hot," "live" or energized whenever working.
- Allow convenience outlets, switches, electrical wires, sockets, connectors, breakers and other devices to dry completely. Drying may take days, depending on how wet the system is and on external temperature.
- When all electrical wires and accessories are dry and clean, proper testing must be done to ensure the integrity of the electrical system.
- Appliances must be completely dry and serviced or checked by a licensed electrician or service center agent.

Do not turn on damaged electrical appliances.

- Be observant and watchful after powering up your house to immediately detect any abnormalities.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: If your electric meter was submerged in water, please report this to the **Meralco hotline number 16211** or text to 0917-589-2824 or 0920-909-2824. You may also call the Meralco hotline number if you need the services of a licensed electrician.

Please remember...
SAFETY FIRST.

A message of safety from
MERALCO

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Website: www.inquirer.net/mindanao

John Jon Bondoyan
Sunas Chief Nilo A. Alcantara

T'boli weavers spin dreams from 't'nalak' art

By Rose May de Guzman
Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

AMID THE MAJESTIC LAKE SEBU, NOT FAR FROM THE corner of conflict, a craft and an form has taken root that mirrors the natives' flair.

In a dim shack perched on a village called Lamdalag, home to about 4,000 people, a group of women weavers is infusing new lessons and intricate designs that have gained global fame for the fabric's exceptional range.

In a longhouse that sits on a quiet street in Sitio Tukabila, the world of women belonging to the Tduraya of Dreamy opposite to the younger T'boli generation.

A cultured old woman in Lina (dress) opened the wooden doors of the modest house. Across the floor of nanit (floor of bongos (dress) in intricate hues, she led visitors into the workshop.

Aleet Lang Duling the last master weaver of a great cloth, a rough and rustic fabric identified with the T'boli.

Lang passionately talks about the cloth, which her grandchild Tefina is supporting.

An acknowledged national artist through the Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in 1998, she is one of the country's living treasures.

At 13, she started weaving the hard way. Guides to her ancestors who passed on the art.

The graying Lang has become an unemployed weaver that she can finish on a t'nalak from scratch with over a hundred designs, including the fanlaying (bat hanger), the grinding sangi (classic), the hailingkngi (clouds) and the kabungi (butterfly).

Experts have evaluated her works as outstanding based on the precision of shapes, authenticity of color and symmetry of the products, which are currently on display at the National Museum.

Lang has woven more than a thousand cloths spread to art aficionados worldwide.

Even with her fingers now wrinkled by age, Lang, 83, continues to work in the workshop once school.

Patiently bending fine threads through a roll of abaca string, she fashions a 1.5-meter fabric blooming with nature shades of brilliant red, bright white and pitch black.

Then, the young matriarch have been trying to learn from her. They too, try to work with patience that could shave their arching with Lang's guidance.

Starting only two sons, Lang tirelessly teaches willing learners, mostly young mothers, "so the t'nalak will not become a lost art in the future."

"The men are tasked with harvesting, stripping and softening of abaca fibers; then using these together for dipping using yugo (from different parts of tree). It takes about two weeks to achieve the deep colors. The threads are dried, all set for the women to work on," Lang said through her grandchild.

Since the creation of the workshop, 11 women have graduated and now help pass on the wisdom and skill to other T'boli members.

Striking designs

"All we can do now is keep trying to make t'nalak so striking that people will find it hard to refuse," Lang says.

The workshop shows how she has taught weavers to help her preserve the art and in the process, help them to provide for their families.

Every day in the morning, 26-year-old Josephine Mabanao rouses herself to attend the morning session of weaving. It has been like this since she studied the art five years ago.

"T'nalak weaving is like facing kinds of things," the mother of six young children says. "Patience by because only a few like to study."

While the dwindling figures of weavers may spell the loss of the art, Lang endeavors this is a challenge.

"My students will go on whatever to the hope that, eventually, more women will be encouraged to join," she said.

Livelihood

Lang said she was expressing that the members she has been coaching would also share the value of weaving to their families apart from making a living out of it.

"We are becoming because we work hard. We rely on the money from t'nalak to feed our families and put our children through school," Mabanao said.

A weaver earns an average of P5,000 per month, which is already a big help for their families.

"With the workshop in place, we believe that we are taking part in a sustainable development. Weaving has changed our lives, especially the way we look at life," she added.

Depending on the intricacy of design, it takes three to four months to weave a 10-meter cloth, which sells for P50,000 or more.

Her Lang's flawless creation, a stolen costs P800-P1,000. Her products are sold all over the world.

Instrument of change

Lang says she doesn't take salaries from the sales. "I weave how joy I will have my life as an instrument of change for the T'boli."

The state of the t'nalak now is far from what it used to be, she said.

In the 1960s, the tribe traded t'nalak for items for easy mobility of their farm products.

Then the late Cora Aquino was established. Today it continues to help tribal families through its programs that encourage women to weave during their free time.

The institution also provided the weavers venues to promote the cloth and allowed weavers like Lang to earn the income from their skill.

But some developments are working against Lang's hopes of preserving the t'nalak.

"Capitalists enforce their dyestuffs on the weavers, some even uprooted them to places where they can earn more," said Rosemarie Aminol, an entrepreneur.

"Ironically, new designs sell better than the traditional ones, so income is much better. Along with other weaves, we have decided to go with flow as this is business," Aminol said.

She is fascinated the very idea of t'nalak weaving, which the locals said was inspired by a goddess named Fu Dalo.

"Centuries back, a goddess named Fu Dalo appeared in the dreams of many and presented the geometric patterns. Our ancestors imitated the first designs," Mabanao said.

Elsewhere in rural Lake Sebu, a growing number of villagers have also channeled the art to exchange for mini skirts and blue jeans. Among the last group of weavers with not as many interested today.

Despite these threats, the weavers of Lake Sebu have come to love their woven work, observes Lang.

"The t'nalak is not just about Lake Sebu. It is about our race," she says. "We have to do something so we can preserve it."

"While modern designs are easier to weave, I will keep on doing things the old way to preserve our degenerating art and culture," Lang promises.

As to who will carry on the tradition, Lang said: "I leave it to a few who have somehow mastered the art."

Pope Benedict offers prayers

By Dona Pazzibugan

POPE BENEDICT XVI HAS OFFERED prayers and expressed sympathy for his "beloved Filipino people" who are suffering from the onslaughts of back-to-back storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

The Pope relayed his closeness with and prayers for the Filipino people to the Philippines' new ambassador to the Vatican, Mercedes Arnaiz Tuason.

According to the news website of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Benedict encouraged Filipinos to "allow their deep faith, their cultural heritage and the democratic virtues that have been a part of their patrimony from the time of their independence to shine as an example to all."

He also encouraged "works of charity" and perseverance in peace-building, especially in regions "marred by conflicts."

The Pope also said the Philippines' struggle to overcome poverty "calls for honesty, integrity and an unwavering fidelity to the principles of justice especially on the part of those directly entrusted with the affairs of governance and public administration."

Special collection

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales has ordered a special collection in all Masses today to boost the Catholic Church's relief drive for Ondoy's victims.

"The tragedy brought about by Ondoy ... continues with devastating consequences in the lives, homes and neighborhoods of many people in Metro Manila and most of Southern and Central Luzon. A disproportion as large as this becomes a call to all of us to reach out to our brothers and sisters who are out there literally still wet and cold, homeless," Rosales said in a statement.

He said the floods caused by Ondoy should remind the people to care for their environment.

Relief packages

Donations in kind will also be welcome, according to Caritas Manila, the charity arm of the Archdiocese of Manila, which also includes the Dioceses of Pasig, Kalookan, Cubao, Novaliches, Malolos, San Pablo, Parañaque and Antipolo.

As of 10 a.m. Oct. 2, Caritas Manila has raised cash donations amounting to P1,324,098.

The Catholic Church's relief drive has progressed from distributing relief items to providing different families longer-sustaining packages.

"These are items that will sustain them for a month or so, unlike other single relief efforts where they are given limited portions of rice and canned goods that will last them for only a few," said Sr. Rosemarie Mullins, executive secretary of the CBCP's social arm, the National Secretariat for Social Action.

Each relief package has cost P1,000 worth of items, including kitchenware, a family size mat, blanket and mosquito net, canned goods, two big towels, underwear, slippers, toiletries, pillow, rice and sweets, utensils, laundry detergent and a sack of rice.

PORTRAIT OF CARING While her child wrapped in protective clothing and a hand to cover his (unclear) they get wet, a mother cuddles her child as she braves the floodwaters in Taytay, Rizal. RICHARD MADELO

Ferry service resumes in Bicol

By Kristine L. Alave and Jerome Aning

INTERISLAND FERRY SERVICE HAS resumed in some ports of Luzon, decreasing the number of passengers stranded at the ports, the Coast Guard said yesterday.

As Typhoon "Pepeng" moved north, some ferry services, especially those to the Bicol region, remained spectacular for the last 24 hours.

But at least 10 domestic flights, mostly to Bicol, were canceled yesterday.

The Coast Guard spokesperson, Commander Armand Balilo, said the number of passengers increased to ports in Bicol and Southern Tagalog dropped to 842 as more on Friday from over 3,000 on Thursday.

"Three stranded passengers are now remaining in Bicol," Balilo said.

He said the Coast Guard was expected to allow ferries to sail to Bicol as Pepeng continued its upward trajectory.

Cebu Pacific flights

According to a public advisory by the Manila International Airport Authority Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport had the biggest number of canceled flights, all Cebu Pacific round-trip flights to Catarman, Legaspi, Virac and Naga.

They are flights 5J 911/712, 225/326, 235/326, 237/338, 851/852, 530/531 and 535/536.

In Terminal 2, PR 277/278, a Philippine Airlines flight bound for Legaspi and back, was canceled. JG 605/606, a South East Asian Airlines round-trip flight to Basco, Batanes, was also canceled at the old Manila Domestic Airport.

But only a few passengers of the 18 flights were stranded at the terminals as the airlines notified their clients of the cancellations earlier on.

Thousands evacuated from 'Pepeng'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINating Council (NDCC) yesterday said a total of 115,061 people from different provinces expected to bear the brunt of Typhoon "Pepeng" had been moved to temporary shelters.

Some 8,218 people were transferred to evacuation centers in Cagayan before it was pounded by high winds and heavy rains at around 3 p.m.

In Cagayan Valley, the NDCC recorded 37,238 residents who heeded the government's call to seek safe grounds.

In Central Luzon, a total of 4,609 evacuees have been moved to the Bicol, 612; Calabarzon, 4,762; and Mimaropa, 87,731.

Metro spared, North hit; 'Pepeng' slams Cagayan

From page A1

fall between 2 and 3 p.m.

Caritas said he immediately relayed the information to provincial and city officials for contingency measures.

Signal Initially said Pepeng would hammer Cagayan as it has signs it changed its forecast as storm yesterday saying landfall was at around 3 p.m.

But Caritas said his office received Pagasa's updated weather bulletin only at 2 p.m., perhaps due to the power outage and glitches in communications lines owned by the typhoon.

In its 11 p.m. update, Pagasa said the eye of Pepeng was located 40 kilometers northeast of Tuguegarao. It was packing maximum winds of up to 170 km per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 210 km, and was moving west northwest at 15 km per hour.

'Pepeng' kits

At a press conference in Manila, Pagasa Deputy Director Nathaniel Cruz said northern Luzon could expect heavy weather until today.

Pepeng is expected to cross northern Luzon this morning and to its 210 km east southeast of Basco, Batanes, or 320 km northeast of Aparri by this afternoon, Cruz said.

By tomorrow, Pepeng is expected to exit the Philippine area of responsibility and out into the South China Sea, he said.

"We can say we are very lucky that we were not allowed to experience another monster typhoon like that could have been as destructive, or worse, as 'Ondoy'... The forecast name of its then," Cruz said.

He was referring to her weather's typical storm that caused floods in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, killing nearly 300 people.

Wind, red rain

Contingency measures are routine in Cagayan because the province lies on a typhoon path, the residents were surprised when Pepeng started gaining strength at noon yesterday Cadiz said.

He said Pepeng's winds were stronger than those accompanying Typhoon "Xangsane" in 2006.

OCD officer Philip Labuguen said the wind, and not rain, was what was threatening Cagayan.

Chief Supt. Roberto Dioniso, Cagayan Valley police director, said rescue efforts had been hampered by the debris and fallen trees blocking major roads.

Dioniso said the province is the initial disaster yesterday morning but was forced to retreat to Camp Adduru, the regional police headquarters, when a tree fell on his car.

Dioniso said rescue teams are standby could not leave the camp because of the strong winds and blocked roads. Dioniso said their rescue personnel and provincial government employees back to address pleas for help on foot.

THE UNIMAGINABLE FILIPINO SPIRIT This family of flood victims is not shown in the dumps despite the trash and mud behind and the hard work that lies ahead to pick up the pieces of their life. RAFFY VERGARA

"The region is devastated [even now]... Pagasa had advised us that the typhoon would hit land at 6 p.m. but it came early. It's risky to go out at this time," Cagayan said.

"Many people are outdoors. They can not understand that it is not easy to deploy rescue teams because of the typhoon and the blocked roads. We are all in the same predicament here," he said of residents who had ignored early warnings that they should seek safe grounds.

At least 1,911 families have been evacuated from coastal and low-lying areas in the towns of Gonzaga, Tuao and Sta. Teresita, the OCD said.

It said officials of Batalionan town had requested rubber boats to ferry residents needing help, and that the Magalang bridge connecting Cagayan and Apayao were now impassable due to the swollen Chico River.

'Normal' in Batanes

In Itbayat, Batanes, which is often battered by typhoons, some residents described their situation as "normal" despite the approaching Pepeng.

Ruth Ann Hosoya, 25, the Ivatan lass herself were accustomed to typhoons and that their houses were designed to withstand strong wind and rain.

She said local officials had not issued an alarm for massive evacuation.

In Ilagan, Isabela, Senator Maitenah bundled up his wife and three children and left the Batanes refugee town as the Pinatubanan and Cagayan rivers remained low.

Maitenah, 45, said he did not want to experience again the floods that submerged their house last year.

As Pepeng started dumping heavy rains on Friday night, at least 575 families were evacuated to their temporary shelters in school buildings, evacuation centers or their relatives' houses in Cabagan and Ilagan, Isabela, and Tuguegarao, Cagayan, Gov. Rodolfo Antonino said.

Dioniso said the province had also prepositioned relief goods in the towns of Peñablanca, Gattaran, Lasam, Piat, Tuao, Amulung, Alcala, Enrile, Solana, Iguig, Tuguegarao City, Baggao, Gonzaga, Sta. Ana, Aparri, Camalaniugan, Buguey, Lal-lo, Gattaran, Abulug, Pamplona and Sanchez-Mira.

As of 10 a.m. Oct. 2, Caritas Manila has raised cash donations amounting to P1,324,098.

The Catholic Church's relief drive has progressed from distributing relief items to providing different families longer-sustaining packages.

"These are items that will sustain them for a month or so, unlike other single relief efforts where they are given limited portions of rice and canned goods that will last them for only a few," said Sr. Rosemarie Mullins, executive secretary of the CBCP's social arm, the National Secretariat for Social Action.

Each relief package has cost P1,000 worth of items, including kitchenware, a family size mat, blanket and mosquito net, canned goods, two big towels, underwear, slippers, toiletries, pillow, rice and sweets, utensils, laundry detergent and a sack of rice.

Rains pounded Ilocos Norte

Rains pounded Ilocos Norte province for 12 hours, flooding 10 towns and displacing 1,000 families, Governor Imee Marcos said.

Marcos said the province was also experiencing power outages and damage to crops.

Ilocos Norte Vice Governor Angelo Barba Jr. said the province was also experiencing power outages and damage to crops.

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Answered prayers in Aurora

In Aurora, more than 600 families in flood-prone towns were told to seek safe grounds on Friday night.

Senator Rogel Roamico Ramos, Aurora police director, said the residents of critical areas in Dipaculao, Dinalungan, Casiguran, Dilasag and Maria Aurora, Dilasag was hit by a major landslide in 2004), heeded the order.

Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo said the Aurora Dilk had prayed for Pepeng to veer away. "Everyone here prayed for the typhoon to somehow weaken or change course, and it's a great blessing for us that it did."

Castillo said she had ordered all local government officials to tell the evacuees not to return home early and to keep rescue equipment on standby.

"We will wait until the typhoon is finally out of our province," she said.

Provincial administrator Alex Orcajo said preparations for Pepeng did not go to waste. "Never mind if we prepared too much though nothing of what we expected came. What is important is our people are safe," he said.

In Pangasinan, high school sophomore Amadeo Aurelio, 14, drowned in the Cordillera yesterday afternoon as Pepeng pummeled the region.

In Benguet, Gov. Nestor Fongwan called on small-scale miners not to venture into mine tunnels, especially during the typhoon.

'Filipino mentality'

In Nueva Vizcaya, disaster management officials bemoaned the refusal of many residents of Bonol and landslide-prone areas to leave for safe grounds.

Rodolfo Aguinaldo, disaster management provincial coordinator, said people living on the banks of the Magat River in Bayombong, Solano and Bagabag towns refused to heed the evacuation order issued by authorities on Friday.

"It is the usual Filipino mentality that they will not leave their property unless the situation becomes unbearable," Aguinaldo said.

"But our policy is that it's family matters to leave, they must at least allow the children, elderly and elderly to be taken to evacuation centers," he said.

Aguinaldo said cars with heavy equipment had been working around the clock in Sitio Tumayongot in Abian, Bambang, clearing a portion of the national road that had been buried in mud from landslides since Wednesday.

In Nueva Ecija, the release of water from Pantabangan Dam was stopped as soon as town flooding.

Dr. Evelyn Inquico, manager of the dam and reservoir division of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System, said the water elevation in the reservoir was down to 219.26 meters from Friday's 219.44 meters.

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In Pangasinan, high school sophomore Amadeo Aurelio, 14, drowned in the Mamarang River in Calasiao town.

Aurelio were swimming with his friends in the rising river at about 1 p.m. on Friday.

Some 160 families from coastal barangays sought shelter in various evacuation centers on Friday night.

Provincial information officer Butch Velasco said 118 families were evacuated in Dagupan City, 40 families in Urdaneta and 20 families in Asingan.

In Bulacan, more than 2,000 residents living along the Angat River in Norzagaray, Bustos and Bulihan town were evacuated early yesterday after the river swelled because of release of water from Ipo Dam, PDRC reports said.

PDCC chief Lito Mangaoil said the dam in Norzagaray started releasing excess water at a rate of 998 cubic meters per second. The water level reached 101.68 meters, slightly above the critical mark of 101 meters.

The water level at Angat Dam, also in Norzagaray, was 212.44 meters, two meters below the critical mark of 214 meters.

Minimal damage

In Catanduanes, Gov. Joseph Cua expressed relief that Pepeng spared the island and brought only minimal damage to its inhabitants and infrastructure.

Four of the province's 11 towns had yet to send their reports but Cua, also the PDCC chair, said he was confident that the strong winds and rains had not resulted in any casualty or destruction of homes.

But waters rapidly in the capital town of Virac had yet to be brought back to normal level.

Elsewhere in the Bicol region, more than 700 passengers remained stranded at noon in the ports of Allen, Sorsogon and Matnog, Sorsogon, the Coast Guard said.

It said 111 trucks, 28 small cars and four passenger buses were also stranded.

Albay

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda ordered all evacuees in the province to return home.

He also ordered the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office to distribute food packs to 151,265 households as incentive for their early return to the preemptive evacuation.

In Bonavista, Quezon, Arnold Magpaya, 34, died after being hit by a falling tree while evacuating his on Friday.

PDCC coordinator Henry Rono said Magpaya was a resident of Barangay Mahayag.

Reports from Vincent Cabreza, Elmer Bitbitan Pasigna, Volmar Vinejo Jr., Melvin Gascon, Gabriel Carillanosa, Yolanda Xenia, Dairine Galang and Leoncio Bolledo Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Charlene Cepalduy, Tonette Orejas, Analiza Rogue, Carmela Reyes and Robert Lopez, Inquirer Central Luzon; Germelino Matinong, Jocosse Ian Balisa, and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon; Alexis Pupo in Manila

NEWS

Stay put in evacuation centers, victims told

By TJ Burgonio and and Jerelyn R. Uy

HOURS BEFORE TYPHOON "PEPENG" SLAMMED into Cagayan last night, President Macapagal-Arroyo advised thousands of flood victims to stay longer in evacuation centers in Metro Manila and elsewhere, and let the storm pass.

"We have received reports that the storm would fall in Cagayan, and some people were leaving evacuation centers for home. Its Secretary Gilbert Teodoro suggested that they spend one more night in evacuation centers," she said in a media interview before presiding over a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) in Camp Aguinaldo.

Teodoro Jr had advised flood victims to spend two more nights in evacuation centers where they would be safe from rains and floods, stressing that until there was no assurance of a fair weather they must not go home yet.

"There are still rains now. What knows what amount of rain this will bring not merely as a consequence of Peping but as an after effect?" said Teodoro following the NDCC meeting.

He said the government would send the victims home "as soon as possible" but with the potential rains as the typhoon strikes the northernmost part of the country, the government was rather trying to make evacuation centers better than thinking of already sending them home.

Even if Supertyphoon Peping shifted its course, veering northeast to distance areas such as Metro Manila and some parts of Northern Luzon, it did not mean the absence of rains in these areas, he said.

Peping has a vast "rain band" and it could still inflow the southwest monsoon, he pointed out. It was also a potential hazard for flood victims in Metro Manila to return to their homes as floodwaters in some part of the capital have yet to subside.

"We can't force them to stay but we want them to spend more time ... two days will be sufficient," he said.

At the NDCC meeting, Mr Inayo called Chief Supt. Roberto Dimilen, police director and chair of Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Region 2, to check if he had evacuated residents from flood and landslide prone areas in the Cagayan and the rest of the region.

He learned that some 2,300 families have been evacuated.

Meanwhile, public schools where evacuees are temporarily staying will remain closed until the retrieved "Ondoy" are relocated into new homes or relocation sites, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said yesterday.

"The schools that serve as shelters to the evacuees will obviously not open," Cabral told the reporters. With a report from Nikko Dizon

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulandey

Flood victims in Metro jails lack water, clean cells–ICRC

Outbreak of diseases in crowded quarters feared

WHAT are these flood victims waiting for? Turn to next page to find out.

By Kristine L. Alave

TWO THOUSAND INMATES IN Metro Manila jails affected by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" are in need of safe water and clean shelter, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said yesterday.

The ICRC said one of its urgent projects in the aftermath of the massive flooding brought by Ondoy last Saturday was to ensure that inmates in various detention centers have access to clean water and live in decent quarters.

The storm, the most devastating to hit Metro Manila and outlying provinces in the last 40 years, aggravated the situation in the jails, the organization said.

"Almost 2,000 inmates lack access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation," says Mateo Albornoz, an ICRC water and habitat coordinator.

Serious situation

"The situation in jails, which are already overcrowded, has become extremely serious. Several days after the tropical storm, some facilities remain flooded and isolated, and the delivery of relief is a major challenge," he added.

Improving jail conditions is one of the ICRC's flagship projects in the Philippines.

The organization said their initiatives to improve living conditions in jails nationwide have helped 71,000 inmates.

Last January, three ICRC workers were kidnapped by bandits in Jolo, Sulu, after conducting a jail assessment survey there. The workers were eventually freed.

The ICRC is also coordinating with local government officials to ensure the water supply to the affected areas, noting that the risk of acquiring water-borne diseases was high after a severe flooding.

KJLOOB, AAS

Fake fire safety officials nabbed in Makati City

By Allison W. Lopez

FIVE MEN WERE ARRESTED RECENTLY by the Makati Fire Department (MFD) on two separate operations for allegedly posing as fire safety inspectors.

Makati City fire marshal, Chief Insp. Samuel C. Tadeo, said the MFD caught Ronald Soldevia, Renato Bobaya, Jessel Lizardinojan, Jeanie Mae and Melvin Espino with fake mission orders bearing the forged signatures of the city fire marshal as well as fake receipts and identification cards and fire extinguishers.

Tadeo said the arrest was prompted by reports of men entering establishments without mission orders and allegedly forcing building administrators to buy fire extinguishers from them.

Also impounded were the suspects' L300 van with plate number UTJ-360 and a Honda Civic (TMA-456).

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay lauded the MFD's quick action on the complaints of the building administrators.

"I'm glad the Makati Fire Department is conducting efforts to ensure the security of the city's establishments and protect them from unscrupulous individuals who use the name of the department to their scams," the mayor added.

Charges of usurpation of authority, falsification of public documents and other forms of deeds were filed against the suspects in the Makati Prosecutor's Office.

Meanwhile, Tadeo urged building administrators to report persons or erring fire safety inspectors to the MFD station at tel. nos. 815-6014 and 911-2227.

Quezon City deploys 10 lifeboats for stranded residents

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNment has bought 10 lifeboats to be used in rescuing stranded residents or motorists should floodwaters transform a large area of the city again brought about by a new tropical storm.

"We have bought 10 lifeboats, two of which are already operational. If there is really danger, people are more willing to go this time," Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said yesterday.

Belmonte led local officials and policemen in a massive clean-up drive at the center of Araneta and E. Rodriguez Avenues yesterday morning to clear the roads and nearby creeks of trash from Ondoy's floods that related areas as this paper.

"The evacuation centers are in the same areas and the local relief operations are still on going. There's massive work until Sunday, but we have several teams doing the cleanup," he added.

The Quezon City Police District and the local government conducted joint cleanup operations in Barangays Tatalon and Bagong Silangan, as well as portions of Araneta and E. Rodriguez in Araneta clogged with flood debris.

Robin in Quezon City escaped from slight mishaps or moderately heavy rains yesterday morning, which fortunately did not cause flooding as severe as the ones caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Meanwhile, residents of Barangay Bagong Silangan who relocated to a nearby basketball court have remained there after floodwaters submerged the area and swept away around 88 residents.

Supt. Constantin Aguasos of the Batasan police station said his men inside the wounds of the barangay on Friday night to remind residents not in secure to their homes near the creek.

"They chose to stay in the court where there is a coalition out-arrival of relief goods," Aguasos said. He added that the creek's water level, which caused flashfloods last week, remained at a normal level.

In Barangays Damayan and Del Monte, several families were also evacuated Friday night for fear that the nearby creeks would overflow with Tropical Storm "Pepeng" on the way.

Sipo Raymundo Espiritu of the Mitsubishing police stations said 227 residents of the two barangays were moved to the San Pedro Church, Dahpac and San Francisco Elementary School's barangay hall and a multi-purpose gym.

WAITING FOR CANDLES
Residents of Norzagaray town in Bicol province scramble for candles distributed by donors as floodwaters rise after the worst flooding in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces in more than 40 years. Tropical Storm "Ondoy" left more than 200 people dead and dozens more missing. The toll could rise with Supertyphoon "Pepeng" hitting the northern part of the country yesterday

Policemen take lead in cleanup campaign

By Julie M. Aurelio

POLICEMEN IN QUEZON CITY yesterday armed themselves not with guns but brooms and shovels...to clean up flood devastated areas in Quezon City a week after Tropical Storm "Ondoy" hit the country.

Quezon City Police District director Chief. Elmo San Diego led the cleanup drive yesterday in at least two heavily flooded areas in the city...Barangays Tatalon and Bagong Silangan.

Policemen wielded rakes, shovels, brooms and other cleaning tools to clear portions of the two barangays of garbage and debris.

The QCPD also conducted similar cleaning drives at the corner of E. Rodriguez Sr. and Araneta Avenues where floodwaters also dogged the street during last Sunday's onslaught.

Around 5,000 policemen from Quezon City's 12 police stations and Camp Karingal made up the cleaning teams.

At Quezon City Hall, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. also launched a cleanup drive. Quezon Citizen QC, to encourage residents to take the lead in cleaning their surroundings.

Barangay Tatalon was doubly hit by disaster as floods and a total fire hit several districts in barangay the heavy rains last weekend. Seven people were killed in the fire.

Flood victims in Metro jails ...

Passage A17

The ICRC said it has sent engineers to flooded sites to check the water systems and to coordinate with authorities to repair broken systems.

The organization, in concert with the Philippine National Red Cross, has also carried out relief operations. The ICRC said it has distributed drinking water, blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets and hygiene items to victims of Ondoy.

"From the onset of this calamity, the Philippine National Red Cross staff and volunteers have been working around the clock to carry out rescue operations and meet the immediate needs of flood victims, such as drinking water and food," said Eric Yon Brigelles, the ICRC delegate in charge of cooperation with the PNRC.

"We are supporting their relief efforts financially and providing items available in the ICRC warehouse. We are also assisting rescue and assessment teams," she added.

Watchman found dead in Novaliches village guard house

By Julie M. Aurelio

A WATCHMAN BELIEVED TO be burdened with financial and work problems appeared to have shot himself in the chest during a downpour in Quezon City over the weekend.

The body of Augusto Gantanes, 45, a security guard, was discovered at the guard house of the Cabral Compound of Torres Village, in Barangay Baghanang Bayan, Novaliches.

PO2 Jennelyn Rhavelos of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the victim may have shot himself between Friday night to Saturday dawn.

"His last log in at the guard's log book was 6 p.m. on Friday and he may have killed himself during that interval," the case investigator said yesterday.

Gantanes was a security guard of the Covenant Security Services at the time of his death. Witnesses told police he was last seen alive on Thursday evening at around 9 p.m.

The victim died of a single gunshot wound in the chest from his service-issued shotgun, which police later recovered from the scene.

Marcelo said the victim was apparently having financial problems, which may have pushed him to take his own life.

"There was the possibility that their security agency could be replaced at his work site, so the victim was probably afraid he would lose his job," he added.

Police said they also read a text message from Gantanes's daughter encouraging the victim to be brave and not mind his money problems.

A lahorer, Jenny Alerta, discovered the watchman's lifeless body at around 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

Police were able to recover the shotgun, three live cartridges and a spent shotgun shell from the scene.

HIGH AND DRY
Clothes hastily salvaged from homes submerged in water are left to dry on the roofs in Angono town, Rizal province.

Tondo community moved to safe shelter

By Jeannette I. Andrade

ONE THOUSAND FAMILIES were evacuated by the Manila city government from their communities Friday night and early yesterday morning, as part of preemptive measures to cushion the impact of Tropical Storm "Pepeng" and to ensure the safety of residents in flood-prone areas.

Manila Police District (MPD) director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magsilay said they did not have a hard time asking families to leave their homes in Tondo, particularly in Isla Puting Bato, Bonco Compound, Magsaysay Street, and Estero de Magdalena, since the residents were aware of the danger posed by the typhoon based on experience.

Residents in other low-lying areas in Sta. Ursula were also asked to temporarily seek shelter at the different evacuation sites put up by the city.

"They probably did not want what happened last week to happen to them again," Magsilay pointed out, adding that those areas were submerged in floodwaters brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

The evacuees were housed in four different sites, including the Del Pan Sports Complex, the Delpan Elementary School, the Basac Covered Court, and the Baseo Covered Court.

Jeweler shot, robbed by 2 men on motorcycle

By Jeannette I. Andrade

TWO MOTORCYCLE-RIDING men gunned down and robbed a 28-year-old jeweler of his cash and merchandise Friday afternoon in Manila.

The gunmen immediately fled after taking with them valuables belonging to Cesamen Cay, of 1135 Modesto Street in Tondo.

PO3 Ely Santos of the MPD homicide section said the incident happened at around 5 p.m. on Friday along Alvarez Street in Sta. Cruz, while Cay was on his way home aboard a scooter.

Blocked

Santos said two men riding tandem on a motorcycle blocked Cay's path and started shooting at the jeweler.

The 28-year-old victim fell, the men began shooting Cay of his valuables, including a handbag containing an undetermined amount of cash, the gold jewelry he wore, as well as a .45 caliber pistol.

The suspects then fled with their loot while bystanders brought the victim to the Metropolitan Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival from multiple bullet wounds in the neck and body.

The body was later brought to the St. Harold Funeral Home for an autopsy.

Homicide investigators are conducting follow-up operations for the arrest of the suspects.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

2009 world animal day
DISCLAIMER
The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) has decided to postpone the World Animal Day event scheduled on October 4, Sunday, at SM Mall of Asia due to unforeseen circumstances brought by the typhoon Ondoy. PAWS has committed itself to secure the welfare and assume care of the animals displaced by the recent disaster, and will not be able to push through with the event this weekend. Please wait for further details as the event will be rescheduled to the soonest possible date.

Accidental entertainer drives away blues

By Jeannette I. Andrade

HOPE FOR SOME 800 HAMLESS in Vitas, Tondo, who lost precious possessions at the height of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" last weekend came in the form of relief goods and a romantic voice hunting from the speakers of a truck.

Pet Ladrillos Bacisi, 36, of Barangay 119 Zone 5, entertainment was the only thing she could offer to families gathered at the covered court of Barangay 105 Zone 6 as they waited for dole-outs from Sen. Manny Villar.

Bacisi, who was among those who helped out in the distribution of relief goods, told Inquirer that she loves singing and was often asked to grace in barangay festivities.

Asked why the thought of singing using a videoke set up by barangay officials in the middle of the distribution of relief goods, Bacisi simply smiled and said: "So the people will be happy and will not get bored waiting for the relief goods to arrive."

With Bacisi belting out the Abba song "Dancando," the mood of residents at the barangays hiking up for relief goods visibly changed up, with tension and desperation due itself to quiet and light-hearted flirts, casting-up.

Residents were seen singing along quietly and swaying to the music and songs of this accidental entertainer for the day.

"I DON'T BELIEVE [MARSEILLE] FOR seeking out and groom[ing] particular[s] of any description. After all, I conclude that those who choose to stay do not need the better pay that nurses get in first-World countries."

TEDDY LOCSIN, August 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Elmer Garcia Ucol

E-mail us at global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

He's big brother to workers he recruits for jobs abroad

By Karla Jose B. Pineda
Contributor

JESS GERONIMO HAS BEEN such a help to his countrymen even before the economic meltdown took its toll.

"It's not only an emotion but also an obligation as far as I, being a Filipino, am concerned," said Geronimo, plant manager of Rasco Emirates Aluminum (REAL) who handpicks and assigns Filipinos to take part in some of the company's major projects. REA is known for architectural finishes and metal works in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The more or less 100 Filipinos he hired served as factory supervisors, technical staff, planning managers, quality control managers, store managers, and auto cad designers.

OF BROTHERS AND BUILDERS Geronimo (left) with Shane Bullard (right), one of his bosses at Rasco Emirates Aluminum, and some of the Filipinos he had recruited to the company.

Filipinos have edge

However, months ago, Geronimo found himself in his residence engaging in carpentry and cooking for his family instead of supervising REA's workforce and working on architectural projects. He resigned from the company due to reasons he modestly stated as personal.

"But I plan to go back to UAE soon," disclosed Geronimo during his time off in the resort's "I'll continue living Filipinos to help them, at least, in these trying times."

GERONIMO: "Lack of college degree is not a hindrance to success overseas."

And went back he did. Not long after resigning, Geronimo reunited with REA in text on leaving set crusses in his relationship with the company and enlisting more Pinoys to the company's workforce.

Geronimo said workers in SRA hail from various countries—India, Nepal, Pakistan, Egypt, Malaysia, Lebanon, Thailand, Germany, Sweden, and the Philippines, among others. But they were hired not because of their nationality, but because of their skills, he said.

"And this is where Pinoys have the edge," he quipped.

Filipinos have the advantage, said Geronimo, because of their rich experience in the field, strong grasp of the work's principles, and intangibles like diligence and dedication. Geronimo attributed the quick, or and more accurate operation of his projects in REA to the construction experience of his hired Filipino workers.

Big brother

"The people I choose to work with are those with a good background, willing to learn, and hardworking," he said.

According to Geronimo, who has been in the industry for almost 30 years, most of the Filipinos he hired in UAE he had already worked with in the past. Thus, it was easier for him to relate with them since he knows them very well and they know him just the same.

"Outside work, I normally see as their Apo (big brother) or drinking buddy (during weekends)," added the 52-year-old father of an only child, Angelica, who used to represent the country in international javelin throwing tournaments.

Not college graduate

Originally a resident of Sampaloc, Manila, and a high school graduate from Don Bosco Technical Institute, Geronimo started his break in the aluminum industry after getting in the defunct Cavite branch of Reynolds Metals Company as Asian area brand liaison for the Reynolds Wrap household aluminum foil. Before this, he had worked in three-digit companies for five years.

From being a laborer to running a factory for Reynolds that produced aluminum curtain walls for high-rise buildings, Geronimo, who served the company for 17 years, progressed to being a well-trained professional in his field. He attended various seminars in and outside the country and once served as a panel person for touch-up testing of major curtain wall projects.

"Having the right education and degree is important, but this doesn't mean that if you're not a college graduate, you can never succeed in your career," he said.

Geronimo was also sent to Miami, Florida, to spearhead other principal projects. This happened when he was with Asia Aluminum Co., the company he worked for after Reynolds.

In 2003, he was recruited by his former Australian boss, whom he had worked with in the Philippines in 1997, to work in Abu Dhabi for the expansion program of Fabricators Branch Industrial Co. He experienced widening their with the latest technology in the industry.

Four years later, he became SRA's plant manager.

"There have been a lot of blessings in my life," he said. "And this (recruiting Filipinos) is one way of giving back." "I make it as a talent for myself to help others as I hope for them to somehow be successful in their lives too."

Besides rising from the ranks, Geronimo prides himself with setting up plants from scratch, all eventually becoming productive.

He established five plants—in Shandaleong, Gavite, Ortigas, Pasig, and Marikina—during his stay in Reynolds. When Hour City Architectural Metals tied up with Arts, he was also tasked to put up a factory 18 times the size of Arts. "From the building to the purchasing of machines to the hiring of workers."

He also set up plants during his assignment to Miami and his work with the Fabricators Branch expansion. When REA was starting, he was also there, building its factory which, on the other hand, was 10 times the size of the Fabricators Branch project.

Patriotic confidence

Geronimo said he remained focused in making his country proud of him not only by inspiring other Pinoys to work hard but by pushing himself to always be positive-minded.

"When you work overseas, you are not your own and you have to show and prove to the company you're working for your know-how, expertise, and leadership qualities. This is a constant pressure all throughout since there are other managers coming from different countries all over the world and everybody is watching your moves and progress," he said in a current-issue tone.

"So doing your duties and responsibilities, you should be strict but reasonable. You should have a strong conviction and should be able to explain and defend your decisions. You should also know how to handle the pressures that come along with your goals," he added.

With particular confidence, this he echoes to the employers across the world. "As general, if Filipinos are properly motivated, treated, and owned equally and humane, they will show a positive attitude towards work and with everybody else."

"My goal hasn't change," he said. "I want to live a simple life, give my family all the possible comfort there is, at the same time reach out to every Filipino I can."

Abu Dhabi: Like never leaving home

By DJ Yap

ABU DHABI—FOR FILIPINOS, making one's way around this beautiful and city is as easy as asking, "Kabayan?" or "Pinoy ka ba (are you Filipino)?"

Be indeed, Filipinos can be found everywhere here in the capital of the United Arab Emirates, from managers running hotels to entertainers sending remarks' blouses and servers making cakes.

City in construction

"You won't ever get lost. You can always spot a Filipino in the crowd and ask for directions," said Aileen Herrera, sales and marketing coordinator at Al Raha Beach Hotel. "You won't miss home at all."

Filipinos, among many other expatriates who comprise as big as 80 percent of the Emirates' population, are helping build this desert city's reach by brick, so it seems to join the world's premier urban centers by 2030.

After all, Abu Dhabi is still very much a city in construction, as evidenced by its expansive landscape dotted by cranes, trucks and skeletal buildings in various stages of completion. Everywhere one looks, some new facility is being built, some new building is being planned.

Oil being abundant here, the government, along with the private sector, has poured in billions of dollars in development activities around the Abu Dhabi emirate, the biggest of the seven emirates of the UAE.

Hotels, resorts, malls, and office buildings are rising faster than one can say "recession." In least two islands, Yas Island and Saadiyat Island, are undergoing massive developments to make hubs of culture and tourism, with the construction of world-class museums, schools and resorts.

An hour-and-a-half's drive from bustling, busy Dubai, Abu Dhabi is a bigger, quieter and eminently more orderly urban version of the goldrush zone having its more famous cousin, early in congestion and massive layoffs as a consequence of recession, subway has hit it hard.

Abu Dhabi, by contrast, has been affected by recession only marginally, and as a consequence is expand, the services and labor sector should only grow as much with expatriate workers coming in great numbers from India, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

Migrants comprise 80 percent of the UAE population, and Filipinos form a sizable portion of this figure especially in the service and hospitality industry according to Irma Tarabia, senior marketing communication executive of the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority.

Missing park

Going figures from the Philippine Embassy in the UAE, Gulfnews reported in late 2008 that there were some 370,000 Filipinos in the country in 2007, and that Filipinos comprise 4.3 percent of the entire UAE population.

In Abu Dhabi, evidence of this is found in virtually every hotel, restaurant, supermarket and shopping complex.

Tarabia said Filipinos would not miss the Philippines much living in Abu Dhabi, since one could find other Filipinos to talk to everywhere.

"There's one church here we can go to hear Mass. We talk in Filipino. We use Pinoy food. It's like we're in Manila," she said in an interview.

But she added that she missed pork, since eating it is forbidden in this predominantly Muslim country.

On the recent visit to Abu Dhabi by Southeast Asian journalists, sponsored by budget carrier Airasia, which was opening a new route to the city from Kuala Lumpur, Filipinos crowded up to the artificial palm plaster—including even the press conference to announce the KL-Abu Dhabi route.

Willie Lacsina, who helped set up some of the lighting fixtures in the Abu Dhabi press conference, said he had brought his whole family to the UAE, although his twin daughters would have to remain home to attend high school.

Easy to earn quick cash

"If you reach a certain income, your family can apply for visas and come here," said Lacsina, who works for a furniture and lighting company based in Dubai.

He said it's easy to earn quick cash in the first days but the cost of living is very high, more so in Dubai than in Abu Dhabi.

The punishing heat also takes some getting used to. During this visit, the temperature ranged from the low to mid-40°C. "You can't survive without air conditioning," Lacsina said.

He said one won't find many Filipinos toiling under the heavy sun in construction work, unlike the Indians and Pakistanis, whose Indian sons seem suited to the heat. "People hate all the time," he said.

As Abu Dhabi continues to grow, Filipinos based in Dubai have started moving in greater numbers here.

"Those who lose their jobs in Dubai move to Abu Dhabi," said a Filipina working for a public relations company and who did not want to be named. "Abu Dhabi is like the poorman (province). They say you know you're in Abu Dhabi [coming from Dubai] when the highway has no traffic lights."

But this might not be the case for long. Abu Dhabi is set on curing its oil sliders to diversify the status of other major world capitals through multi-pronged and long-term expansion plans.

The objective is not to be as over-crowded, as fast-paced, and as liberal as Dubai. "We want to focus on Abu Dhabi culture and heritage. It's a different market from Dubai's," Tarabia said.

AL AIN NATIONAL MUSEUM, one UAE's oldest museum, highlights official focus on Abu Dhabi's culture and heritage and not on its fast commercial rise in the fast-paced Dubai.

The WORLD

Julie Lorene B. Dancel

Top TV producer accused in Letterman extort plot

NEW YORK—A TOP TV producer was charged on Friday with attempting to blackmail talk-show star David Letterman for having sex with female staffers in a case rocking the US television world.

Joe Halderman, an Emmy Award-winning producer for CBS's real-life crime show "48 Hours," pleaded not guilty in New York to one grand larceny charge.

The indictment followed Letterman's stunning revelation of the alleged blackmail plot—and his affairs with members of CBS—during his nationally broadcast talk show late Thursday recorded before a live audience.

Details of the plot unveiled like a mixture of the kind of gos-

HALDERMAN

LETTERMAN

sip and crime scenes that Letterman, 62, and Halderman, 51, have spent years bringing to television viewers.

Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau told a press conference that Halderman, outside Letterman's Manhattan home at 5 a.m. on Sept. 9.

He allegedly demanded the talk show host to pay "a large chunk of money" for a screenplay treatment Halderman said he had written.

When Letterman balked, Halderman allegedly threatened to write a shocking article revealing his sexual affairs with female staffers, the prosecutor said.

Two more meetings took place between the lawyer and the blackmailer during which the attorney wore a hidden recording device.

On Wednesday, the attorney handed over a $2-million check—halted by the authorities...that Halderman allegedly deposited a day later.

He was arrested later Thursday outside the CBS studios. He faces between five and 15 years in prison if convicted.

In his on-air mea culpa, Letterman described feeling the threatening package in the back seat of his car.

The package, said the TV star, contained "stuff to prove I do terrible things." AFP

'We're alive,' trapped Indonesian sends in text

PADANG, INDONESIA—AS earthquake survivor trapped in a collapsed hotel in western Indonesia sent a text message saying he and some others were alive, triggering a frantic rescue operation, but hopes faded on Saturday as sniffer dogs failed to detect life.

Up to 4,000 people are still trapped in rubble following the devastating 7.6-magnitude quake that struck Indonesia this week, the US and Red Cross said yesterday.

"We estimate about 3,000 to 4,000 people are still trapped or buried under the rubble," UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Indonesia Elisabeth Byrs told reporters.

"Yesterday some say signs of hope, yet, but the search filling the air is very uneasy," said one of them, Nila Sirahen, wiping sweat and dust from his face.

The quake devastated more than 300 km along the western coast of Sumatra island, prompting a tsunami warning and aftershocks in a country that sits on a major geological fault zone and has dozens of quakes every year.

More than 20,000 houses and buildings were destroyed and 2,400 people hospitalized across seven districts, said the national disaster agency. AE-AFP

Japan PM probed over fund scandal

TOKYO—PROSECUTORS HAVE launched investigations into a political donations scandal against Japan's new Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, a local daily reported on Saturday.

Hatoyama, who won victory in last month's landslide election over the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), took office with the new cabinet enjoying more than 70 percent of public support.

Hatoyama said his former accountant was solely responsible for the problem, in which a total of 22 million yen ($220,000) had been recorded incorrectly since 2005.

But the case has remained an Achilles heel for the politician even after his successful Democratic Party of Japan's (DPJ) landslide victory.

HATOYAMA

The Liberal Democratic Party, which was ousted by the DPJ, has remained blackmailing Hatoyama, criticising him for swallowing labor support on political donations.

DPJ's Ichiro Ozawa, Hatoyama's predecessor as the party leader, has resigned after being indicted of accepting illegal donations in return for public works contracts. AFP

Obama: Job loss figures 'sobering'

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT Barack Obama on Friday said the latest grim government job loss figures were a "sobering" reminder of a difficult "grind" ahead toward economic recovery.

"Today's jobs report is a sobering reminder that progress comes in the end users," Obama said.

"We're going to need to grind out this recovery step by step."

In a blow to hopes of transitional recovery, the United States Department of Commerce on Friday showed job losses accelerated to 263,000 in September, pushing the unemployment rate to a new 26-year high of 9.8 percent.

Obama, who is facing intense political pressure to speed up the US recovery after the worst economic crisis on record, noted that last minute, the economy was losing around 700,000 jobs a month. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Ex-Argentina president Menem's arrest sought

BUENOS AIRES—An Argentine prosecutor asked an appeals court on Friday to detain former President Carlos Menem over allegations he helped obstruct an investigation into a deadly 1994 attack on a building housing Jewish charities, in a jolting session. Menem, 79, has judicial immunity, and is to be arrested should that fail to be approved by the legislature. Prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who is investigating the attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (Amia) which killed 85 people and injured 300 people, also requested the arrest of the ex-president's brother Munir Menem and former intelligence services chief Hugo Anzorreguy. AFP

MENEM

Man arrested in ESPN reporter nude video case

LOS ANGELES—A Chicago man was accused of filming surreptitious nude videos of sports network reporter Erin Andrews in a hotel room and arrested at Chicago's O'Hare airport Friday night, the FBI said. Michael David Barrett, 48, faces federal charges of interstate stalking for taking the videos, posting the videos online and trying to sell them to celebrity website TMZ. The FBI said in a statement. He's scheduled to make an initial court appearance Saturday morning in US District Court in Chicago. AP

Polanski promised to pay $500,000 to rape victim

LOS ANGELES—Film director Roman Polanski agreed to pay his sexual assault victim $500,000 to settle a lawsuit 13 years after he fled the United States, according to court documents provided to media outlets on Friday. Polanski and his victim, Samantha Geimer, reached the deal in October 1993. Court documents did not indicate if Polanski, now 76, ever paid. Polanski was arrested of raping Geimer, then a 13-year-old girl, with champagne and part of a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977 and raping her. AP

POLANSKI

Smart Bro Gives Away 10,000 Limited-edition Dongles To Students

It was a surprise-packed session—one that brought together students from different schools to get their hands on one of the thousands of limited-edition prize items.

In line with the advocacy of Smart Communications (PLDT), Smart's former CEO, to support the youth and various sports in the country, the #1 broadband give away 10,000 Smart Bro dongles in a recent event held at the Megatower in Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

"It's now free" attracted legions of students from member schools of the University Athletics Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA).

Here, students only needed to show their current ID to get the free dongle of their choice, of course. Alumni were also given already discounted rates.

The limited editions of Smart Bro Dog its have designs that feature the sports team members of UAAP and NCAA member schools. These are Adamson U. (Soaring Falcons), La Salle, FEU, National University, UE, UST and UP for UAAP. The NCAA member schools are College of St. Benilde (CSB), Jose Rizal University, Letran, Mapua, San Beda, San Sebastian, Philippine Christian University (on loan), and University of Perpetual Help.

It was a fitting get-together for students as the collegiate sports season moved towards mabait final/playoffs that will decide the best of them in the season.

"The project helps us to address our goal of having 1 million Smart Bro subscribers by the end of the year," said Smart marketing group head Anna Haad during the event. As of press time, there are 700,000 Pinoy Bro subscribers, extending their lead as the out leader in broadband services area.

UAAP Season 72 president Anino Montrade said the

league was "happy to be associated with Smart, a quality organization with quality products that cater to the youth, just like the UAAP. We are very thankful for this collaboration."

On the other hand, NCAA MIB Season chair Jose Raul Lukanio said, "We only partner with quality companies and this should add spice to what the NCAA is all about, which is that of keeping up with the times."

The NCAA Board's marketing committee head Henry Alapide also said, "It's about time we introduced something new, young and fresh since we're the oldest league in the country." Earnings from the partnership will be used for the scholarship program of CSB, the schools they represent.

The student (heart) was treated to local concert performances by popular rock bands Sandwich, Hale and Spongecola. The whole-day event featured raffle draws, games and treats reminiscent of school fairs such as hot cup of noodles, halo-halo and ice cream. Tents, booths, trophy, beverages and other sponsors freebies all beginning with the letter 'S'.

The one-of-a-kind Smart Bro Broadband session The Great SMART Do Side was also announced, with extra-fun contests and promos for participants.

Smart Communications, Inc. recently launched its expanded HSPA network nationwide, from Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte to Cagayan Oro and Davao and has with many more cellsites expected to go live before 2009 ends. Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, and other key cities are already covered by the network's high-speed mobile broadband which provides a subscriber high speeds of up to 1.8Mbps, enabling Smart Bro subscribers to enjoy the fastest wireless broadband service when surfing the internet.

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THE TIDES

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Sunday SPORTS

Ateneo shoots for title vs UE

Coach Black still wary of Lee

By Jeannie W. Peps

ALL-ELEGANCE

TO A 79-71 GAME 1 triumph last Thursday.

"Their backs are against the wall now (even more so that Lee) will come out fighting," added Black. "So we just have to continue to defend him. We're not going to stop Paul Lee, we'll just try to contain him."

UE coach Lawrence Chongson, however, needed all several concerns as his Warriors try to force a rubber match on Thursday.

"Our players have to try to taper off their emotions," said Chongson.

"Sometimes it's positive, but it can also be a negative thing. They don't think that much on court, it's all emotional, all adrenaline. When it flows it's good. But when it stops flowing, you're at a stalemate."

The Morayta forward has no answer for the 6-foot-6 Al Hussaini, who wound up with a double-double of 28 points—capped by six straight points in the final two minutes—and 14 rebounds.

Reyes also had a field day by shifting 17 points, 4 dishes and 3-of-5 shooting from beyond the arc in the second half.

"We can see from my boys that they tend to be nervous," said Chongson.

"Hopefully we come out better in Game 2. Basically the same game plan. We just have to make adjustments defensively."

Lee, this year's Most Improved Player, led the Warriors' late charge by knocking in nine of his 15 points in the fourth quarter.

Although the league's Game 1 winner has gone on to claim the title 11 out of 15 times, Chongson said his Warriors remain keen to keep an open

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Pacman oozing with fire

We'll leave Cotto swinging at air–Roach

By Francis T.J. Orbeta

MACAO CITY—THE TURNAROUND was sudden as it was impressive.

World pound-for-pound sensation Manny Pacquiao spat out a solid uppercut during a closed-door sparring session, dominating opponents in the Shape Up gym yesterday just two days after a sluggish performance that had trainer Freddie Roach muttering off the sharp cuss.

"You punished right away," a smiling Pacquiao told journalists at ringside as he worked his way through thunderous rounds of shadow-boxing toward the end of another training session.

"Relax," he added.

Roach easily admitted he was impressed not only by the way Pacquiao knocked counterpunch fluids on his opponents but also with how he deftly moved out of trouble—a synergy that will come in handy when he faces the hook-throwing, body-hunting Miguel Cotto on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"I'm happy [with his performance yesterday]," said Roach. "This is how we have to fight to win against Cotto. Cotto loves long exchanges and we have to move out to the side quickly."

"We'll leave [Cotto] swinging at air."

Pacquiao will get his Cotto's WBO welterweight belt at the Venetia gambling haven in an attempt to nail a seventh world title in as many weight divisions.

Saturday, as heavy rains brought about by Typhoon "Ondoy" peppered this southern capital's skies in the afternoon, Pacquiao wrapped up five more rounds of sparring, hiking his total to 12.

But this was different than two days ago, when he got repeatedly tagged by Shawn Porter and peeled mitted by Urbano Antillon.

"He's starting to get his timing and he seems a lot more focused today," said Roach.

Pacquiao sparred three rounds with Porter and two with Antillon before Roach allowed the gym doors to be open to the public.

Brief accommodating, Pacquiao put on a show for those who flocked around like crazy, joking around with the audience and laughing lighthearted the whole time.

The Filipino flog icon and his team were down to Manila last night as their home relief ground in the throes of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" today. Earlier, Pacquiao donated P1 million to GMA-7's fund drive.

Earlier, Pacquiao went through two rounds of heavy mountain training with strength and conditioning coach Alex Ariza, who said the energy-sapping drills will continue until two weeks before the fight.

"We're going to start picking up the exercises," said Ariza. "The drills are supposed to teach Manny to hold firm, hold his balance. We're trying to find a way to generate power without overwhelming his speed."

Pacquiao gladded through the drills, leaving some members of the audience gasping at what he had to endure.

"You're not supposed to like it," Ariza said. "It's supposed to be tough and difficult, but at the end of the day, it will help Manny generate a lot of power."

ROACH quenches Pacquiao's thirst during a break in training yesterday.

VASQUEZ tries to hold on to Francisco (right) after he is knocked down in the 10th round of their WBA super fly duel yesterday.

Francisco stops Vasquez for super fly title

By Dennis U. Eros, Libre

DIBAH "GOLDEN FIST" FRANCISCO scored closer to a world title shot by stopping Juvenal Panamanian Roberto Vasquez in the 11th round to win the WBA super flyweight international title at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City yesterday.

The 26-year-old Tourlaro, who scorched his undefeated record to 10 wins, including 5 KOs, gave the dazed Panamanian a steady diet of his concussed left hooks, uppercuts and right straights to emerge triumphant.

"I dedicate this to our countrymen especially those who were victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Frantzo, who befuddled the two-time Panamanian world champion with his awkward stance.

"Our next target is to challenge WBA super flyweight titlist Nobuo Kashiro of Japan," said Glenn Ammons, president of the famed by the Bell Promotions who staged the "Battle of the Bay-Fest Strike" with Solar Sports.

Defeated by Vasquez's frustrate record (27-3, 20 KOs), the pride of Touch Gloves Boxing Gym in Agoncillo, Batangas, dominated the earlier rounds and dished Vasquez to the fifth with a lunging left hook-and-overhand.

A native of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, Francisco joined Vasquez with a left hook near the end of the 10th, followed by combinations that forced Vasquez's corner to throw the fight in the hill rang.

Featherweight Michael Footrose annexed the World Professional Boxing Federation title with a ninth round TKO against Korean Jun Ang-hunk. Lightweight Al Gabuyan and light flyweight Mhar Mellado won by unanimous decision over Mexicans Joselito Arce and Guadalupe Martinez, respectively. Michael Domingo also triumphed by TKO over newcomer Jose Navarro in the 7th round.

Escalante joins RP team to World Macau Karting

RISING STAR ANTONIO SEBASTIAN "SASTY" ESCALANTE of TRC-ReadyToRace will be joining the RP Karting Team to the 2009 World Macau Karting Championship set Oct. 9 to 11 at the Kartodromo de Coloane Circuit.

Sasty, the two-second Macau title for Escalante, an 11-year-old Grade 5 La Salle-Cebu student who will be gunning for the Mini-ROK crown. He is being supported by Fusion Racing School, CRAT Membership International Corp., Bridgestone, Audi, Sanda Corporation, Puma, Kaosaklaan Basketball Group, Washington Watches, Extra Karmen, Bust also has the full backing of parents Agnes and Tony Boy Escalante, chef of Tagaytay gourmet restaurant Antonio's and Agnes.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo

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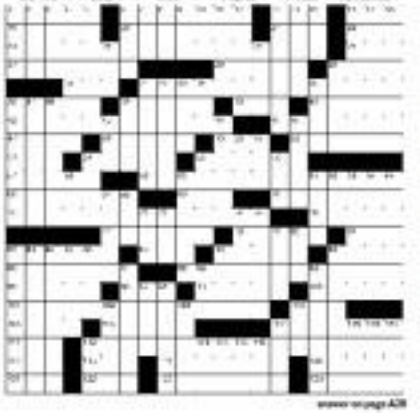

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Inquirer

Eaglets, Lady Falcons win series openers

By Jeanine Y. Poyo

RIPPER RAVENA CAME THROUGH with a phenomenal all-around game to power Ateneo past Rowe rival De La Salle, 74-73, yesterday in Game 1 of the UAAP juniors basketball Finals at the PBSC Flying Vbarena in San Juan.

Ravena pumped in 33 points, including eight of the Blue Eaglets' last 12 points, on top of nine rebounds, four assists, three steals and three blocks.

"He's a great player," Ateneo coach Joseller Jarin said of the 15-year-old son of six-time Ruing Ravena. "If young he couldn't have done it without his teammates. They never seeing him up, he was given screens, that's why he was able to make those baskets. I give credit to the players. I just guided them."

GAME 1 RESULT
(PBSC Flying V Arena)

**Ateneo (74) Ravena 33, Lim 8, Torres 7, Ildefonso 6, Ramos 5, Gallego 4, Cruz 4, Cabahug 3, Dela Cruz 2, Ong 2, Ramos 1, Ramos 0, Ramos 0, Ramos 0

Vettel grabs pole position for Japan Grand Prix

SUZUKA, JAPAN—RED BULL'S SEBASTIAN VETTEL KEPT THE PULSE ON his slim Formula One championship campaign by taking pole position Saturday for the Japanese Grand Prix. On an isolated eleven-day of many crashes, Vettel did qualifiers with a time of 1 minute, 32.180 seconds. Ryoichi Sasha 0 all with 0.021 from second spot. AP

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail: sr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Sharapova prevails as Jankovic retires

TOKYO—FORMER NO. 1-RANKED Maria Sharapova won her first tournament since returning from a 10-month injury layoff when Jelena Jankovic was forced to retire in the first set of the Toray Pan Pacific final.

Sharapova was leading 5-2 in Sunday's final at Ariake Coliseum when the seventh-seeded Jankovic took a timeout to have her right arm examined by the trainer.

The Serbian player returned to the court and lost the first two points of the eight-game before retiring.

"It's disappointing," Sharapova said. "It's toward the end of the year and there are a lot of injuries so I wish Jelena a speedy recovery."

It was Sharapova's first title since Stuttgart in April, 2008, although she has spent long periods of the time in the lucrative.

Jankovic got off to a strong start, breaking Sharapova's serve in the first game and taking a 2-0 lead. But Sharapova rallied and took control by winning four straight games.

"She started off so strong," Sharapova said. "But it's my second final of the year so I wanted to play strong. I played well all week so I felt I could give her a good match."

Sharapova also reached the final in Toronto in August, losing to Olympic champion Elena Dementieva in the final.

Sharapova underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair a rotator cuff in her right shoulder nearly a year ago and is still not to rebuild the form that has earned her three Grand Slam singles titles.

"It's exciting," Sharapova said of Saturday's win. "My pur in so much work and it to be able to go out and compete in front of thousands of fans is great. You realize what a gift it is to be a tennis ball." AP

Meanwhile, former world number one Ana Ivanovic has pulled out of this week's China Open and decided to end her 2009 season after suffering an upper respiratory tract infection.

The Serbian has fallen to No. 11 in the world rankings. AP, Reuters

SHARAPOVA ... set

SPLIT ... Golfer Greg Norman and tennis great Chris Evert, shown here during a break in Norman's practice round prior to the 138th Open Championship in Turnberry, Scotland in July, announced their separation 15 months after they were married in the Bahamas. The ex-couple's joint statement did not mention divorce plans.

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We've got it all for you!

Thompson, 14, shares lead with Ochoa, three others

SEATTLE, ALABAMA—FOURTEEN-YEAR-old Alexis Thompson shot a 3-under 69 on Friday for a share of the lead with top-ranked Lorena Ochoa and three others after the second round of the Navistar LPGA Classic.

Thompson, from Coral Springs, Florida, is vying to become the youngest winner in LPGA Tour history.

THOMPSON ... set

"I can say I'm really nervous for 14," said Thompson, the silver of PGA Tour player Nicholas Thompson. "I would definitely say that. I just play golf every day. I mean, I'm young. That's the only difference."

Shaleen Hagge won the 1952 Jamtown Open 14 days after her 14th birthday and took the Bakersfield Open two months later, but both were 18-hole events. Paula Creamer was the 2,000 Sybase Classic at 16 years, 9 months to become the youngest winner of a full tournament.

"I'm so nervous, and I'm just going to look at it and just be like, 'Whatever,'" Thompson said. "Because I just try to come into there and just play well. It's just good competition for me. Sure in the world."

Thompson won the 2006 US Girls' Junior and tied for 34th in July in the US Women's Open. She shot a 65 on Thursday.

Ochoa (68), Laura Davies (65), Yani Tseng (62) and Giulia Sergas (65) matched Thompson at 10-under 134 on The Senator course at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's Capitol Hill complex. Tseng matched the tournament record set by her U.S.

Filipina Jennifer Rosales carded a 72 and was seven shots off the pace with 12 others at 141.

Sophie Gustafson, the winner last week in California, was 9 under after a 65. AP

Over ₱3M awaits QCIM top runners

OVER P3 MILLION IN PRIZES WILL BE DIvided equally among the male and female winners in the international and local categories in the 1st Quezon City International Marathon slated on Oct. 18.

The topmost pot will be for the champions in the international category of the full marathon, with start and finish at the Quezon Memorial Circle. A total of P500,000 will be awarded to each champion in the men's and women's division.

In the local category, the male and female champions will each receive P250,000.

First placers in the men's and women's 21K, meanwhile, will get P50,000 apiece. Cash prizes, gifts and trophies will also be awarded to winners in the 5K and 10K races.

Online registration is accepted at www.runnex.org/qcim2009/

Business Features Editor Margie Quiogue-Espiritu

Sunday BIZ

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ For a couple, manna came in the form of 'pan de sal' /B2

JOSE G. Arnaldo (second), chair of The Real Bank, dons his Lolo Pepe hat for the children who have gathered to hear his stories

Tales from a thriftmonger

Co-founder of venerable auditing firm now tells stories of savings to children

By Chuyee Medina
Contributor

LOLO PEPE IS THE artful moneybox Jose G. Arnaldo, chair of The Real Bank, goes by these days.

Arnaldo used to be just plain old Joe among peers and friends, the hardworking Joe who co-founded Punongbayan & Arnaldo, an auditing company that prided itself with high-quality work.

But he turned into Lolo Pepe, now popular among kids, when The Real Bank launched the first in a series of books attempting to teach children the values of thrift, saving and honesty.

Yes, Arnaldo is Lolo Pepe in "Mga Kwento ni Lolo Pepe," now a three-book compilation of real life experiences that he has unselfishly shared with primary school children.

And so long as the messages ring serious, the bank's chief thrift and savings advocate doesn't mind how he comes to be called.

Prior to retiring to Punongbayan & Arnaldo, the bank chairman was an auditor who started with the Sanglo Several og Pilipinas. He then worked in various management capacities for different private banks including Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, Philippine Savings Bank, and the Philippine National Bank.

Punongbayan & Arnaldo went on to become the country's third largest auditing firm.

"But when the auditing industry started moving to more technology-based services, I felt it was time to retire," Arnaldo narrates.

But first had other plans for him, even if he had bought enough books to read for a whole year, commencing with his "promotion" as chair emeritus of the firm.

A banker once again

"The owner of Real Bank called and asked me to take over the management of the bank, and that he would give me full rein and authority," Arnaldo said, referring to realty developer Jose Acuzar. "I was touched by the trust he was extending me that I accepted."

And so, in 2003, Arnaldo shoved aside his retirement plans to become a banker once again.

It was an ideal narrative setup for this comparatively small-time banking outfit, which initially depended chiefly on the traditional depositors' clan. Arnaldo observed the near-absence of saving values among children. The prevailing system has something to do with this in that almost all banks require a high minimum deposit otherwise within reach of the young.

Still, there were very few children interested—or aware—of the concept of saving.

To encourage children to save, the bank came up with a program that allowed kids to open an account with just P100, earning at 6 percent interest a year.

More to share

"We don't really earn from this scheme. In fact, the bank may even be subsidizing each child on the administrative cost involved in maintaining an account," Arnaldo commented.

But he remains convinced that this will encourage children to save money.

Because Arnaldo felt he had more to share in building children's values with regards to savings, he gave the chance up on a publication that detailed his own experiences above doldrums while growing up.

Many of them were lessons his parents taught him as a child, even up to when he was a college student at San Beda.

In order to reach the widest number of children, Real Bank developed the project with the Department of Education. Already 50,000 copies of the first book have been disseminated to various public schools, and another 50,000 copies of the second book are currently being distributed.

> He used to be just plain old Joe, the man who co-founded Punongbayan & Arnaldo.

The third book has just been penned, ready for release.

The book project has been warmly received by students and teachers, inspiring the bank's management to extend the project.

Now banks are currently in the pipeline to introduced to introduce positive values that children hopefully will bring to adulthood, even if learned vicariously through stories of Lolo Pepe.

Arnaldo says he wants his people and the company to have a mission. The advocacy campaign represents the bank's contribution to nation-building, he adds.

"We want to make a difference in the lives of our countrymen," he says. "We don't want the bank to be just any ordinary bank. We want the bank to have a distinction."

For a thrift bank with 29 branches based mostly in outlying provinces around Metro Manila, the idea of taking up an advocacy as part of its expression of corporate social responsibility reflects the deep conviction of its management and owner.

"The cost of this advocacy has been substantial, considering the size of our bank," Arnaldo says. "We've run even in the first 10 of thrift banks," he adds.

But it is something that the bank believes in doing, and convincing.

Arnaldo laments how people in general have stopped saving.

"We used to save money for our old age. We used to put aside part of our earnings to save in banks the system is for an entrepreneur and not just an employee-haircut," he assumes. "I would not have been what I am today if I did not know how to be thrifty and learn how to save."

28 percent

Arnaldo says he always set aside 28 percent of what he earns.

He points out two living examples who have become successful because they were thrifty, had self-discipline, patience and sensitivity. Henry Sy of the SM Group of Companies and John Gokongwei of Robinsons.

People who save, Arnaldo says, can become entrepreneurs. In fact, he adds, entrepreneurship is one area that the bank will next explore.

Who knows what Arnaldo will think of next? One can almost hear Lolo Pepe hollering: With ambition comes a better life.

SM

DEPARTMENT STORE

will donate

₱10 for every ₱500 min. purchase*

for one week
Sept. 29 - Oct. 5, 2009

to the affected families of
Typhoon "Ondoy"

GMA

SM Foundation

* Proceeds will go to the rebuilding of schools destroyed by Typhoon Ondoy. This effort is through the SM Foundation in partnership with GMA7 Foundation. All branches of SM Department Store, nationwide, will donate P10 for every P500 minimum single-receipt purchase. Duration is from September 29 to October 5, 2009.

SM

DIOMEDIO and Rosie Salvador had great faith in the bread recipe bequeathed to them by the family patriarch Dionisio Sr. The couple later put up a restaurant known their bakery (far left).

BELOW, a mammoth pan de sal for those with huge appetite.

For a couple, manna came in the form of 'pan de sal'

By Marlet D. Salazar

ALL THE LATE DIOMEDIO SALVADOR SR. needed was to bring back the way *pan de sal* tasted in the 1950s.

He was not satisfied how the breakfast staple was being made and he was disappointed with its shrinking size.

He convinced his son and daughter-in-law, Dionisio Jr. and Rosie, to put up a small bakery in Muntinlupa. The elder Salvador urged the couple to sell *pan de sal* using his very own recipe.

In the years that followed, the bakery earned the respect of consumers and spawned a loyal following. It also gave rise to three branches in different parts of Metro Manila.

Dan de Amerikanos investor a bit hesitant of the dollar[illegible] stanley bites of its 1950s style *pan de sal* and its affordable price.

The couple said that even though prices of ingredients had been on the rise, they still managed to keep the price tag of P5.50 apiece, as well as the size of their *pan de sal*.

This is mainly because "we are able to source a wider market," said Dionisio Jr., on Amerika's family and friends. "If you specialize in something, it gives you an edge in the business."

Amelia narrated how his father provided him to bake and sell *pan de sal*, again. He was not hard to convince, he said. It was Rosie whom they had to persuade.

She eventually gave in to the idea, giving the enterprise a few weeks just to satisfy her father-in-law.

But Rosie was taken aback by the number of people who came to their bakery each morning asking for their *pan de sal*. It was the same deja vu every afternoon.

The couple has since added a restaurant beside the bakery, serving Filipino dishes at reasonable prices.

They also opened branches in in Dasmariñas, Makati and White Plains, selling two types of *pan de sal*. The regular *pan de sal*. Pan de Amerikanos, a larger version of their best-selling product, an ensaymada eatery; and the Big Boss Loaf, which Amelia said is sort of a tribute to his father.

No additives

Salvador Jr. was a self-supporting student in the 1950s. He worked as a janitor, as driver of the Philippine version of horse and buggy. To augment his meager income, he would sell *pan de sal* to his passengers.

Early on, he realized the potential of his product so he decided to become a *panadero* (baker).

Amelia and Rosie treasured their father's secret recipe. One of the most important things they learned was to refrain from using additives to lengthen the shelf life of their bread.

"Actually, there really is no need for that because they are sold out every day," Rosie said. "I even have to ask our bakers to make me some for my bread crumbs that I use for the restaurant."

They only use Class A flour, wheat bran, whole wheat and hard wheat. They note that they never use bread enzymes.

Pan de Amerikano's products are baked every single day. They also built their own pugon (wood-fire oven), preferring it over the more convenient modern ovens.

"We don't want to lose the smoky flavor," Amelia explained, "because that's a key factor in making a 1950s *pan de sal*."

However, they are quick to add that they are quite busy on the wood they buy. The environment department has provided them with a list of companies that are licensed to sell wood, they said.

"Because we also care for the environment," Rosie said. "Even if we use wood, we try to get only those that are really meant for this kind of business. Otherwise, we won't buy them."

But the couple just only owe their success to the products they sell, but to the people who work with them.

"They are like family," Amelia said, referring to their workers.

Partners in trade

Some of their employees have been with them for up to 16 years. The couple considers their partners and the workers each to retire a share of the company's profit from the gross income each month.

When you engage people in a business and treat them as family, "they will give their all," Amelia said. "It's because you're empowering them and (letting them hold) their hearts in their hands."

Since their branches are stand-alone facilities, the people working there are the ones who decide when to close shop.

"One time, I went to one of the stores and saw that it's already late, yet the people hadn't closed shop," Rose recalled. "I realized that they wanted to sell everything before they all went home. They know that they would earn more if they were to sell every last piece."

Because of their success, Amelia has been invited by some business schools to give a talk and inspire young entrepreneurs.

When the elder Salvador passed away three years ago, the couple placed their construction business on hold to concentrate more on the Pan de Amerikanos.

Amelia and Rosie said that if you would stick to quality, you would never go wrong.

"You just have to know what the country wants and needs, then give them better value," they said.

Pan de Amerikanos is located on Dolores St., Concepcion Dos, Muntinlupa City.

> 'When you engage people in a business and treat them as family, they will give their all ...'

Wanted: Branding experts

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

GIVEN THE HEIGHTENED COMPETITION in today's global business environment, business owners know that they need to go into branding if they want to move into licensing and franchising deals and win consumer loyalty.

And yet, few actively engage in this business strategy that requires sustained investments in resources, funding, time and people.

Are) if they do go into branding, many usually do it the wrong way. They forge ahead minus advice from trained, research-driven and media experts who have the right analytical and decision-making tools at their disposal.

Not branding

Branding is an expensive and not a commodity service. The expertise can only come from years of strategic experience and practice, acquired knowledge and exposure to the same or related field of discipline.

Experts also must have access to networks and partners who can help bring in efficiency, speed and sustainability in managing brands.

Branding requires deep thinking and a well thought out strategy that gets validated or provokes new ideas and concepts in research and is eventually translated or executed in creative campaigns, media, special events and other formats that consumers see or experience. It is never the other way around.

Firms who attempt to go into branding without the required expertise usually end up:

- Dealing with creative agencies or freelance creative talents who have neither a brand strategy nor the valuable consumer insights that could propel consumers to buy products and services.
- Working with creative and media partners who are unable to translate consumer insights into innovative creative campaigns;
- Relying on the creative and media suppliers to provide the strategic framework and not the other way around;
- Merely copying what competitors are doing in terms of messaging, creative and media implementation.
- Clinching media contracts without proper assessment of the synergy fit between the brand and the media partner, basing decisions largely on general rating and cranking out meaningless data, not leveraging on a psychographic and target market-specific data and change or modify the media plan. Further, media investments are triggered by close relationships and promo deals rather than strategic media decisions resulting to unmeasurable, one-size-only media deals;
- Believing that name mentions can adequately build the brand.

How to brand strategically

Having identified the many pitfalls of branding without strategy, the following are some steps to achieve branding that is grounded on strategy:

- Engage in insight-mining research that understands consumers deeply;
- Work with creative partners with ability to capture consumer insights into the brand's communications campaign;
- Collaborate with media agencies that objectively present options based on a proven tested methodology;
- Bring in a brand strategist to work with top management in setting sustainable brand directions;
- Engage the brand level and business owners in strategic work and impress upon them the importance of sustained involvement.

(The writer is the *Strategic Brand Management Course* program director at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and author of "*Color Politics In The Mind: A Branding Story*," available at Powerbooks, Bestseller and National Bookstore outlets. E-mail at www.kvsmktg.com.)

The nose knows where the cashpile lies

From page B1

She remembered a tricycle driver who bought a bottle of perfume as a gift for his wife. Another neighbor, who went abroad, stopped sending imported perfumes and instead ordered from the couple, which she now sends to her family.

"They say their sweet fragrance recall the lid-lowering they or sometimes even if you're already married to the other," said Arlene.

Leopoldo said he was pinching for bigger capital so he could make more perfumes in time for Christmas.

Just recently, they met 32-year-old retired investment analyst Gene Espinosa who sent them P50,000 to expand their business.

"I did not have collateral," said Leopoldo. So they gave the philanthropist a bottle of jasmine-scented perfume, which Leopoldo said "was memorable to him."

"Perhaps because we were poor then that I could not afford perfume for myself," said Leopoldo of the perfume he sent Espinosa.

At a young boy, he had to raise guys and bags to finance his schooling in Pangasinan.

"Now, he could even bathe in perfume. He would sometimes pull out the towels just to be could spray us," Arlene said of his husband.

As the business grows, the couple was able to send two of their sons to a private school and acquire property of their own.

Although they keep a simple life, saving most of what they earn for their children, Arlene says life for them is better now.

Movements

EMC appoints head of channel sales

EMC CORP. THE WORLD'S LEADER in information infrastructure solutions, announced the appointment of industry veteran, Kevin Lee, as its general manager of Channel Sales and Partners for South Asia.

Kevin brings more than 20 years of IT experience in channel sales, marketing and enterprise ownership to the role.

Kevin and his team will be responsible for bringing EMC's portfolio of information infrastructure solutions to more customers through the company's channel partners, expanding the company's channel business and driving partner profitability across South Asia. Based in Singapore, Kevin will report to Ron Bell, president of EMC South Asia.

In addition, Kevin will also be Lee is the ongoing success of the EMC Velocity Partner Program that features training and enablement programs that accelerate ease and convenience for partners to work with EMC.

Prior to joining EMC, Kevin was the Asia Pacific head of Channel Sales and Marketing at Seagate Technology where he managed a network of channel partners to grow Seagate's business in mainstream and new market segments.

Yahoo! has a new sales director

YAHOO! ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT of Arlene Amorante as sales director.

She will be responsible for implementing various forms of online advertising, including display, search and mobile advertising to companies as a means to provide effective marketing solutions. Together with a team based in Singapore, Yahoo!'s strategy is to provide its clients the regional and local support they need to grow their businesses through the rich Internet channel.

"Online advertising is a growing business for Yahoo! in the Philippines. With the growing proportion of Pinoy Netizens, online remains an effective medium for brands to interact with their consumers," says Yahoo! Philippines general manager Jack Madrid.

"With Arlene's extensive background in IT and digital, I'm confident that she will be able to lead the team and provide valuable insights to our clients to help grow their business."

NCR names exec for Asia Pacific

NCR CORP. ANNOUNCED THE appointment of David Miller as regional vice president, South Asia Pacific Cluster. Miller will be responsible for NCR's sales and marketing across the region, and growing market share for NCR's full range of products and services.

He will be based in Singapore and report to Peter Lees, senior vice president of NCR's global sales organization.

"David is an experienced sales executive with multinational knowledge who will lead Target by delivering profitable revenue growth across both our core and new industry segments," Lees said.

"David's combination of more than 20 years of sales and marketing experience and extensive knowledge of the Asia Pacific multinational reflects NCR's customer-centric philosophy and commitment to be a customer-focused organization."

Miller most recently with Lenovo Group, where he was president of Asia Pacific.

THE ESSENCE couple offers various scents for men and women. Customers can also ask for personalized bottles.

The nose knows where the cashpile lies

Couple smells a fortune in perfume business

Text and photos by Marissa Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAMBA CITY—IT IS NEVER too late to start up a venture.

Only this April, Leopoldo and Arlene Estevez, both in their 30s, opened their perfume business, operating out of their own kitchen in Barangay Palo Alto here.

In their designated working area, the couple mix and pack their products, while they map out their marketing game plan.

"It is just about the right time since the kids are still young," Arlene said of their business. Their youngest son is seven years old.

Leopoldo and Arlene are thrilled about their perfume business, treating it as if it were their fifth child.

"We wanted to have a girl then, but (instead) we were blessed with four boys. (So) we consider (his business) as our daughter," said Arlene.

Perfume magic

After retiring early from the Army, Leopoldo became a tricycle driver here, earning only P200 a day.

Arlene worked as a sales agent of water pumps, earning only through commissions every three months.

In January, a fellow parent at Arlene's school invited Leopoldo to a free livelihood seminar.

The Bgry Bulay para Bagumbayan seminar was a project of Senator Richard Gordon, created through the Legislative provincial government and the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

Of the 30 training participants, only the Estevez couple were able to make something of it.

The couple immediately embarked on perfume-making after reading the quick returns from the business.

"We only had P5,000 in capital (which) came from my wife. She was happy because I was able to give it back, double. There's magic to it," said Leopoldo.

He also became a trained, practicing perfumer making to his own.

"I got the knowledge for free so I must give it back especially to poor families," he said.

Easy mix

Ingredients include the fragrances, fixatives, propylene glycol, alcohol and other preservatives against mixed to contain ammonia, depending on how saturated the perfume is.

Leopoldo is now trying to create his own fragrances, citing many wills wants in the scent will last longer.

He said he had distinctly memorized about a hundred scents.

"I sniff coffee beans so I won't get confused or feel dizzy," he shared the tip. "I do the mixing also, counted through the Lagrasse provincial government and the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

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Arlene said that she would remit the money to her husband who would then deposit it in the bank.

A 30-milliliter bottle of perfume is sold for up to P300. In a month, the couple earns as much as P40,000 with 20 regular dealers all over the country.

Walking perfume bottles

"People think we are walking perfume bottles," quipped Arlene, adding that they are happy showing their products sometimes for free.

When plans don't go according to script, keep planning

"In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable."—Dwight D. Eisenhower

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

AS SUPREME COMMANDER OF the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II, Dwight D. Eisenhower planned, coordinated, and controlled one the largest amphibious assault ever undertaken—the Invasion of Normandy.

Historians regard him as one of the greatest military strategists of all time. Even so, Eisenhower considered plans to be essentially worthless.

Why plans are useless

• There's no way to control your competition.

It is hypercompetitive and dynamic world, plans have an increasingly shorter shelf life. As Colin Powell said, "no battle plan survives contact with the enemy."

As leaders, we are susceptible to the inventions of competitors. When faced with a new reality, we must either scrap our plans or close our doors.

• Its business as usual.

There's no way to predict the emergence and innovation of your opponent. You never know when a competitor could obliterate your business plan by introducing an inventive idea.

Competition from foreign automakers sent GM spiraling into bankruptcy. Honda has nearly sunk the major record companies, and online newsservices have put traditional newspapers on life support.

• There's no way to control your circumstances.

If you own a small construction firm, then you're painfully aware of this principle. A brilliant plan for growth doesn't do any good when five people are buying and even fewer are building.

Opportunities abound, but you can't do everything. Planning helps you to separate what you must do from what you can do. By prioritizing, you move effectively allocate precious resources of time and capital.

• Planning cannot you to identify contingencies.

As any inquisitive knows, a good swallowing must be chosen to scale and must have elongated tentacles for eatfood. Without these two essential features, the trap is confusing and unreliable to the reader.

Assumptions cover an our beyond and scale when we map out a path for those we lead. We rarely can't make a sensible plan for the future until we've defined our assumptions.

Planning exposes assumptions to the light of inquiry. When considering a future plan, we have to test whether or not our present assumptions remain valid. This process helps us refine our fundamental beliefs about the mission, values, and goals of our organization.

Summary

Plans are disposable. In truth, perhaps it's best to write them on recyclable paper, but never stop the discipline of planning. Although a majority of your plans will end up being abandoned and discarded, the process of planning won't fail to reward you.

###

Attend the 4565 Developing The Leader Within You Workshop, featuring Maxwell certified trainer and top inspirational speaker Francis Kong on Oct. 23-25 at the Eden Shangrila Hotel. Call Inspire Leadership Consultancy at 687-2614 or 0917-9011113 for more info. Visit our website at www.inspirephilippines.com. For daily leadership lessons from John Maxwell text MAXWELL to 4362 (SMART) or MAXWELL to 2930 (SUN).

POWER OF IDEAS IN A WIRELESS COLLABORATION

Innovative PCs plus connectivity anywhere, anytime

Tablet PCs, particularly laptops, are becoming lighter, thinner and more powerful with features that are designed for the on-the-go lifestyle of professionals, business executives and even students who need to be connected.

Not enough, though, if you are those who rely on their mobile office setup to get things done. The grizzled journalist, the hard-working investment analyst, the budding entrepreneur or the young student – each one still needs one or a few network connection that matters.

It is small wonder that Lenovo Philippines has decided to link up with SMART Communications to bring their state-of-the-art tablets in a solid partnership for the launch of the country's widest broadband suite.

Lenovo – known worldwide for its exceptionally engineered PCs – and SMART – the country's wireless services leader – are teaming up for the first time in a business set up where SMART Bro is bundled in specific Lenovo laptop models.

Vicky Agravida, country general manager of Lenovo Philippines, is pleased with the tie-up and considers it much more Lenovo – which has a long history committed to engineering excellence – but lately, have producing PC products that are tougher and very handy.

"We've ensured that our products are highly acclimated" ThinkPad T400s laptop to bring slim and light computing to mainstream corporate users.

Lenovo IdeaPad S10-3 notebook

We've applied thoughtful design in balancing the need for greater portability with strong performance and usability to give today's business users who are increasingly mobile yet have strong demands for functionality, the best of both worlds," she says.

Michael Ryan, Lenovo Philippines Country Manager for Consumer Business and Vicky Agravida, Lenovo Philippines Country General Manager

For consumers, Lenovo – which puts a high premium on the power of ideas – engineered its Idea range of PCs with a strong bias towards serious productivity and latest multimedia features.

"Consumers today are demanding thinner and lighter PCs with smart features and enhanced connectivity to do their increasingly mobile lifestyles," Michael Ryan, country manager for consumer business of Lenovo Philippines points out.

Both Lenovo executives agree that the partnership with SMART Bro will lower the marketability of their new laptop models considering that association with the Philippines leading provider of wireless services.

SMART Marketing Group Head Annie P. Raoul expresses confidence that SMART Bro is being recommended by another big global name in PC manufacture and technology.

"We are happy that Lenovo has chosen to partner with S M A R T because we see being in the Philippine market the benefits of the collaboration between our network as wireless leader and their brand as a PC innovator," she says.

Annie P. Raoul SMART Marketing Group Head

The collaboration is benefiting mobile users such as Marlon Magtira, a 38-year-old infrastructure technology journalist who contributes to various publications, and Shannon Christie Reyes Kerner, a 33-year-old middle school student at Brent International School.

Currently working for publishing companies in Makati and Quezon City, Magtira needs to write and send his stories in between shooting from one office to another and chasing stories.

With his work entirely based on mobile computing, Magtira relies on his laptop to beat the deadlines or he ends up with zero-to-no coverage. "My Lenovo ThinkPad X200 notebook is our only ally. Getting it's actually my life as my daily routine practically revolves around this mobile PC," he notes.

Marlon C. Magtira IT journalist

Magtira admits mobile computing has created a tremendous change in the way he now conducts his work and business. "With the advanced new networking technologies of my Lenovo ThinkPad plus the fast connectivity of SMART Bro, I am able to get quick access to information and promptly accomplish important tasks. This have virtually allowed me to work and do business 24/7," he says.

With the mobile features of his versatile Lenovo notebook, Magtira can even go working without his previously most wanted gadgets – the mobile phone and media players.

Kerner, on the other hand, is simply glad that she has the mobile set-up that allows her to do research work needed in school while being in search, at the same time, with her cousins and friends in the Philippines and in Europe.

Born to a Dutch father and a Filipina mother, Kerner speaks an average five hours daily on the popular™ Lenovo IdeaPad U10. Facebook while she uses constantly with her SMART Bro connection. "My Lenovo S10-2 and SMART Bro are giving me fast Internet and I love it," she exclaims.

Kerner is thankful that she has Lenovo's advanced features and SMART Bro's connectivity that facilitate her school work. "I don't need to go to the library and go through big books to find what I need. I can remain on my laptop and search Google. All things I need to finish are there," she says.

Shannon Christie Reyes Kerner Student, Brent International School

For Magtira and Kerner as well as many Filipinos now discovering the wonders of mobile computing through SMART Bro's partnership with a top PC brand like Lenovo, life has just become a lot simpler.

Lenovo ThinkPad T400s laptop

People, Events & Products

Milo Marathon culminates in Manila

TWENTY SIX CITIES, THOUSANDS OF participants and Olympians after the first starting gun was fired last February in Dipolog and Iloilo, the 33rd National Milo Marathon now draws to a thrilling conclusion in Manila on Oct. 11.

Since it began early this year, the 33rd National Milo Marathon has attracted a total of 200,000 runners, who all enjoyed a fun and exciting running experience that has been the hallmark of the National Milo Marathon. This year's National Milo Marathon also showcased another milestone in its rich history when it staged the country's first-ever nearly 50-mile ultra-marathon in run-cities.

Aside from Dipolog and Iloilo, three simultaneous races were also held in Batangas and Bicol, General Santos and Puerto Princesa, Manila and Cebu, Davao and Tacloban, Bontoc and Santiago, Cagayan de Oro and Lucap, Tacloban and San Fernando, Baguio and Baguio, Roxas and Dagupan, Iloilo and Legazpi, Bacolod and Naga and Dumaguete and San Pablo.

The 33rd National Milo Marathon also introduced a host of new developments like the implementation of qualifying times in the 42K Manila races and 21K provincial races. In Manila, male runners must complete the 42K elimination race in four hours while female runners must do so in five and a half hours to qualify for the National Finals. For the 21K provincial races, male runners must cross the finish line in 1 hour and 15 minutes while female runners have to finish the race in 1 hour and 35 minutes to earn a spot in the National Finals.

Moreover, the 33rd National Milo Marathon will now use disposable timing chips in the 10K and 21K race categories. The National Milo Marathon is also the first running event to use disposable timing chips in the 42K category. Registration centers were also set up across strategic areas in Manila to give runners utmost convenience.

Interested runners may register at the following registration centers: Annapolis Greenhills (727-9987), Mimosa The Fort (856-1411), Mimosa Timoma (935-6495) and Planet Sports Rockwell (896-3032).

In addition, the National Finals will also serve as launch Milo 3-in-1 for Adults, the complete energy mix of Milo, milk, and sugar that has energy relasing Actigen-E and 32mg of calcium for bone strength. "Milo Cut Zone" team will also be set up at the Quirino Grandstand where everyone can take advantage of a free health and fitness consultation with fitness guru Jim Gunn a carrot-bing and photo-op zone will also be set up.

Marathon glory is at stake in the 42K race as the qualifiers in the men's and women's 21K regional races, and the qualifiers from the 42K Manila elimination race will vie for the honor of being named this year's Marathon Champions plus trophies. A total of P1.2 million in cash prizes will also be given away.

Complementing the 42K race are the 10K, 5K and 3K runs, an inter-school running competition and three dance competition, which is now open to college students. Trophies and cash prizes will likewise be awarded to the winners.

The country's passion for marathon remains vibrant than ever as the National Milo Marathon continues to serve as a catalyst in discovering and developing the country's champion runners while encouraging scores of Filipinos to embrace a healthy lifestyle.

The 33rd National Milo Marathon is being held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel and Resorts, the Department of Health, Alaxan FR, Nestle Fitnesse and Nestle Pure Life. To know more about the National Milo Marathon, visit www.milo.com.ph.

CLASS 1984 DONATES TO UP SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

The University of the Philippines School of Economics (Upse) received an initial endowment of P1 million from the Class of 1984 and Judith Poe Duarte during its Silver Anniversary homecoming 2009 dubbed Economerrics: The Ultimate Party for Four! Held at the U. Bilangpagal Hall in UP Diliman last Sept. 19, Silver is professor Emeritus Benjamin Diokno (left), OIC of the Upse is together with professors Manny Fuguroon and Peqing Alonzo, receiving the donation from Judith Poe Duarte and Pepe Duarte, the chair of the homecoming affair. The donation will be used to renovate one of the lecture halls in the college to be able to continue providing quality education to the students in the various fields of economics.

Rain Clear winner

Mother's Auto Car Care and Detailing shop boasts of another product for the rainy season. Pro-Vision Rain Clear rain repellent is an excellent tool for your car's windows this rainy season. Rain Clear comes in gel for so which makes it easier to apply on the surface of your car glass windows. This formula keeps the glass on your car clean and clear even during the worst downpour or wet road conditions. Applying a layer of Rain Clear on your glass windows, windshield and rear glass gives you better visibility as it fills the dirt and grime from wet roads while down and off allowing clearer surface. Rain Clear even comes with a patented micro cloth that allows even application of the gel on the glass' surface. Water instantly beads and rolls the Rain Clear treated surface eliminating that water covered outside look when rain pours down. "This is the best formula today when it comes to raising the visibility of your cars glass windows during this rainy season," says Ronald Tan, owner and manager of Mother's Auto Car Care. Rain Clear is available at Mother's Auto Car Care and Detailing at 333 Samson Road, Barangay Little Baguio, San Juan, Metro Manila. For more information, call 724-1875 or 0920-9888887, or log on to www.mothers.com.

TV host endorses Selenium Ace

ONTV'S IYN PEREZ, ONE OF the hosts of "Good Morning Boys", is now endorsing Selenium Ace, an all-new powerful food supplement from Mari-Health Inc, against aging, cancer, deterioration and heart disease.

Soon, Perez who anchors the health segment in the daily morning show on Channel 37 will be seen in print ads, billboards and publicity materials of Selenium-Ace.

"With my hectic shed, I need Selenium-Ace to keep me going," says the lively ONTV talent.

While other vitamin supplements offer only one type of vitamin, Vitamin E, which acts as an anti-oxidant, Selenium-ACE offers both E and a combined formula of rare vitamins Selenium (100mg) and provitamin vitamins A (450mcg), C (30mg) and E (natural 45iu). So, aside from giving the benefits Vitamin E gives to the body, Selenium-ACE also provides other benefits from its other nutrients, Selenium, Vitamin A and Vitamin C.

Anti-oxidant vitamins protect the body's cells against the effects of free radicals. These free radicals function like tiny high-speed missiles, exploding against cell membranes, causing wear and tear to cells. Scientists believe that free radicals gradually cause a breakdown of cell tissue, thus speeding the aging process and leaving the body vulnerable to diseases.

It is available at Mercury Drug and other leading drugstores nationwide. For inquiries, call 726-9119.

Global-Link MP organizes international printing show Oct. 7 to 10

SOON THAT PHOTOREALLY ALL THE MAJOR STAKE HOLDERS OF the Philippine printing industry have "settled in to some print solutions" there is no further time to waste together and make this upcoming Print and Label Philippines '09 to be held from Oct. 7 to 10 at the SMX Convention Center. MCM Complex be the biggest and most comprehensive industry affair ever put together. Printers from all over the country recognize Print and Label Philippines as the ultimate trade show for all their printing needs, where you are only four the latest and most cutting-edge technologies and machinery, but where the most prominent and influential leaders and industry professionals hold sway. This is your direct access to a most lucrative industry. Don't be left behind. For more information and participation details, call Liza Mara, project director of Global-Link MP at 710-8588/ 687-1304 /fax 710-8585, e-mail liza.mara@globallinkmp.com, or log on to www.globallinkph.com or www.globallinkmp.com.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
also Thelma Sioson San Juan

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How they're doing their share

Compiled by Alex T. Vergara and Elaine V. Pena

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IS DAMAGED. OUR psyche, it is said, is even more damaged. Our institutions are corrupted. We always seem to run into misfortune. Yet—as these answers show, the Filipinos are a good people. That always says it all.

Amira Aranez-Akmad

Creative director, Amira rings

Being pregnant, I cannot be on the frontlines of relief activities. So I am taking efforts that are manageable. We've tapped our alumni at Beckwell and Gemma Ilalt, so drop-off points for donations. We've distributed goods to all barrel overachievers, and also have a relief drive at the School of Builders & the Arts. I also joined my church's impromptu "relief kitchen" in her house in Katipunan, where a number of us packed food while others delivered to shelters.

Next week, we will hold a fundraiser with Bagsikleten by Jessan on Oct. 6, 6 p.m., at Nose or Plaza Mall where we will have a silent auction of one of a kind pieces.

The week, though, will not stop after a week of relief activities. Those who have been badly hit by this tragedy will need our help for a long time before they can get back on their feet. I hope and pray that we all will not tire of heeding a helping hand. This is a time I truly understand values dejavuism is about and am proud to be Filipino. Otra, I feel, is another discovery of the true Filipino found of People Power.

AMIRA, Akmad

Eric Chao

Marketing manager, The Whole Deal frozen yogurt shop

We donated clothes. We are giving some to each employee as help to those of unfamily. Andesor Inc., our franchisee of the Alabang Town Center store, has generously offered to donate his entire day's sales on Friday to the Red Cross. We will also donate 5% for every cup sold until Oct. 11.

Brian Tenorio

Shoe designer and graduate student at NYU's Polytechnic, who grew up in Providence Village, Marikina

I feel very sad that I wasn't with my mom and relatives when the floods happened. I couldn't sleep, nor eat or drink straight as I watched and read the updates on TV and on Facebook from New York. Sept. 26 was my birthday and nowhere in Manila was the last I talked to my mom.... After that...no news from them—except for a short SMS on Sunday: "Hope, we are safe..."

That must have been one of the difficult 36 hours of my life, writing by news from literally

BRIAN Tenorio

Even before the calamity struck, I had set for Oct. 10 a workshop exhibition in a lounge in Park Avenue. I've decided to turn that event from celebration into a fundraiser. I also know that whatever support I will give to my community and my city Dasmarinas will be ongoing into the future.

The relief and support, I think, should not stop after a month. Those who lost their services, homes and possessions, will need a longer time to recover. Those who lost their loved ones will need our encouragement, prayers and support for years to come.

James Reyes

Fashion designer

I'm so thankful that my family and friends are all well and their homes okay.

One of my sisters wasn't so lucky. Her home was inundated after a wall from a neighboring village collapsed. Like a few others, she had to run off the ceiling to get to the roof with her two children! Her loss everything, but thankfully they survived with just a few cuts and bruises.

I've been helping her rent space, giving extra beddings and towels, basic toiletries, clothes. I've also gathered children's clothes for her two kids.

So far, I've been helping my people I know. I've also been using my computer time from Facebook, Multiply to inform people of relief centers and what to donate.

Jackie Aquino

Fashion director

What's happening is really sad and, I think, many an effect of mankind's careless acts. I hope this is a wake-up call to us from blessings to finance.

One thing I'm convinced of. With global warming in the next few years, I will spend my time helping disseminate information on what we can all do to decrease its effects and save what we can for the sake of our children. Education and information are still our best ally and power than the gun is still mightier than the sword.

JACKIE Aquino

John Silva

Writer and consultant to National Museum

I'm helping my immediate neighborhood. I got all my old clothes and brought them to a nearby charity and gave them to people who no longer had roof over their heads. The Museum Foundation office was mobilized to assist and so many coffee table books for sale were donated. The office will have to pay for that so I will have treasure hunt days when all proceeds goes the foundation.

Marina Benipayo

Model

The disaster was personal for me because of my mother and brother. I ventured in rush to my mom's place the next morning to see how she was since the creativity be connected. My brother-in-law and I were also there to help out. My kids and I were to her place as soon as the water had subsided. We stayed with her the whole day. I'm waiting for electricity in Alabang to restore so I can go to my home in Marikina. I'm still in touch with friends whose houses were damaged. The ones have already donated clothes to families in Tagaig. Hopefully, I'll be able to join PBDF (Professional Models Association of the Philippines) in distributing relief goods to people living in Pasig.

Ito Rich

Furniture designer and owner of Rich

ITO RICH

Among my store's featured items this month are these beautiful sun lights. For the rest in October, I will donate 100 percent of sales from these sun lights to the Philippine National Red

HOW THEY'RE C2

Don't blame God, blame botched urban planning

By Rowena C. Borja

THROUGH THE HELICOPTERS IS NO stranger to floods. Tropical Storm "Ondoy" last week broke records, with a month's worth of rain falling in just six hours.

The storm affected nearly two million people. The death toll has climbed to 200 by Thursday and the number of people evacuated is over 700 temporary shelters has ballooned to more than 500,000, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Sunday's deluge has caused urban planners, architects and other experts on the factors that could have caused the calamity and the measures to solve them.

Urban planning was already done, Modi answered. It was drawn up in 1977, titled "Metro Manila Transport, Land Use and Development Planning Project," sponsored by the Philippine Bank. Modern aims are spillway to Pandacan to drain excess water from Laguna Lake to Manila Bay. Illegal zone side are Manila to Pasig River pero ang flow ang tubig.

Our country's urban planning model is obsolete. We have double-loss, standards, architecture rules, building codes. These may have been the causes of the calamity. Plus, the problems of garbage and illegal logging, and we have the tendency in blame God. This is not an act of God but an act of omission of man.

If I had my way, I would develop Metro Manila according to plans of American architect Daniel Burnham in 1905. Many of Manila's cities have been designed in the same way as Paris, built near the Seine River, and Venice, with its waterways. In Venice, you see the spandrels and mesh downstairs. Catch basins should also be constructed under buildings so that they can collect rainwater for recycling or flowing into rivers. It's better for rainwater to flow on roofs or go above the flood lines, just like the Badjaos.

We gave them solutions 32 years ago but they were never implemented. And I don't know why—Felino "Jun" Palafox, urban planner and "green" architect

The incomplete implementation of the flood control plans in the '70s is only part of the problem. Runaway population growth and grinding poverty, coupled with uncontrolled (and poorly managed) urbanization of Metro Manila are as much to blame. Proper implementation and enforcement of laws are a perennial weakness. One of the roots of this problem is that, while the challenges are long term, the solutions are often applied as political sandkits.

Marcia Hilo "Ondoy" will happen again. Many things must be done to lessen proper so far when first dread. We must pay down land use, water use and coastal resources use to align them with regional development plans. "Lifeboat areas" must be identified, and flood-control should focus on those areas. Migration will be one of the most disrupting impacts of climate change. We must pro-actively plan to encourage the movement of people to safer, more sustainable locations before the worst hits us.

We must prevent the few remaining natural areas we have left. We must set up contingency plans for food and water security for example, full-cycle maintenance. Here, some technologies and better management will make all the difference.

We should reforest, and, where possible, reconfigure our national aviation, shipping and highway infrastructure to build to a higher level of survivability in climate impacts.

We should adjust other crucial lifelines such as our power generation systems and grid, delivery system for health services, telecommunications systems, banking and insurance systems, capacity for disaster prevention and response, as well as all other sectors that are crucial in keeping this economy alive. We must learn how to work together.—Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, CEO and vice-chairman, Ionati of Aviation, World Wildlife Fund-Philippines

Manila is a flood-prone area, we are a tropical country experiencing the typhoon season. Only in Manila, which was constantly flooded, was stated by the presence of the "ravine" system which would flush away the floods. During the American period, this continued to be observed, and many have remarked how this was so efficient way of dealing away floodwaters from the city. Sadly, this ravine system is rarely observed by succeeding administrations. In fact, there was over-development by unscrupulous individuals and the local government, resulting in the development of areas that should not have been there in the first place. "Ravine" systems or streams were taken over by buildings and encroachments. Added to this is the urban population growth, particularly the growth of the urban poor who live in danger zones, a major problem in disaster control and management.

Solutions: Implement a viable urban development plan which would prevent danger zones from being developed. Control the growth of population in the metropolis by spreading growth to other regions. To dangerous zones. If growth is inevitable, come up with a new zoning ordinance that would allow high-rise development, but ensure it is a comprehensive drainage plan that would collect rainwater from the city and pump it out to the rivers or to Manila Bay, or recycle rainwater for agricultural purposes. Dovlyn Laguna de Bai and respective rivers around Metro Manila. Implement laws pertaining to setbacks, easements and against settlement building in danger zones.—Ahmad Hisham Lopez del Castillo, Nacho, architect, professor (University of Santo Tomas, College of Architecture), heritage expert and Outstanding Manilan awardee

If there is anything or anyone to be blamed for the flooding in Metro Manila, those are the inhabitants. Domestic garbage has obviously taken over the drainage system. The result: horrific collapse of our garbage property.

> Architects, urban planners and environmental experts explain why it happened and why it should not happen again

We should have waste segregation, foot build houses alongside waterways or in areas prone to flooding. And have facilities that DoE will not allow a repetition of what happened recently.—Jules Joseph T. Fernandez, architect, dean, DLSU College of Architecture), environmental planner

While the heavy rains of "Ondoy" were a natural calamity, the severe flooding, the outcry and the deaths that these have brought are to be blamed largely on acts of omission. Urban planning, or more specifically, the lack of real, honest to goodness urban planning, is partly to blame. The lack of sufficient drainage systems, failure to build waterways, and the proliferation of housing developments in flood-prone areas—all these contributed to the devastation. Lack of political will, and in my view, rampant corruption in local governments and national agencies, are also of concentrates. There were the encroachments of communities along "ravine" systems and other dangerous places, and garbage. And if civil defense still-club had anticipated the amount of rain the storm would bring (available via Doppler and satellite on the Internet), people would have known what to expect.

Dipstar should upgrade its outlook and is situations to take into account, not only wind velocity but also the amount of rain. He should establish a truly professional urban planning agency.

There should be harsher punishments for those who throw garbage in creeks, canals and drainage systems. There should also be regular cleaning and dredging of all drainage systems by LGUs and national agencies.

People should be educated more about the responsible treatment of the environment, including proper waste disposal.

Make the waterfronts of informal settlers a priority in efficient areas. Local governments and housing agencies should not be allowed to evict in giving permits for housing developers. Corruption should be curbed.—Mingaso Pacilla, president and chair, Ayalaan Association of the Philippines; ophthalmologist

The treatment of water runoff created a deluge which our drainage facilities are not designed to handle. There is the matter of the pumping stations that were supposed to clean out the waterways but were unable to do so because of the vast amount of garbage blocking the water channels and canals. It didn't help that there were also the solid objects from the destroyed houses and belongings washed up during the subsidence of "Ondoy" On top of all this, the softening of water from the dams dumped more water to the already flooded areas, making it impossible for the residents to evacuate to safer areas on time.

In light of the global climate change, we should revisit our water easements and 100-year floodplain planning parameters. Our water channels should remain unobstructed and the areas set for subdivisions and land development where swales and "ravine" systems are sometimes built over to reclaim more land for profit.

No, proper land-use planning and zoning are important, particularly when it comes to ecologically sensitive areas, including floodplains, where continued growth and development can endanger human lives. As for the institutional aspect, we need more project planning, equipment and planning when it comes to disaster management.—Sylvia D. Clemente, architect, professor (UST College of Architecture)

Urban planning development cannot be blamed solely for the devastation caused by "Ondoy" but rather, also the poor practice and lack of knowledge on what proper urban planning development is all about. Discipline is the key to an develop lives and small communities in to large urban developments, we should also be responsible for the maintenance of our surroundings. Basically, what happened was a domino effect. From the initial development, a lot of aspects were overlooked, especially the growth of populations and infrastructure. Zoning and implementation of certain laws were also neglected. A lot of things were taken for granted. Uncontrolled development denuded our watersheds, and we have not been prepared to cope with massive amounts of rainfall and severely lacking and proper maintenance of infrastructure including

A careful study of the environment is needed so we can have a game plan. Clearing operations should start with rivers and other bodies of waters, especially the esteros. Regular dredging should come next to prevent clogging. Then, we should look into relocating all illegal inhabitants along rivers, since they nonetheless a lot to suffocating our rivers with improper garbage disposal. There should be regular inspection of factories along rivers, including strict laws and penalties should make them think twice about using rivers as dumping ground.

We must know what kind of land we are building on. Assessment of all data from parcel, use studies should be prioritized to the highest level. The design should also adapt to location. All buildings should be established as a safe enough level so as not to be affected when rivers overflow. We should also anticipate typhoons' growth and have a limit for maximum exposure. Officials should implement the rules properly.—John Tracy Cruz, architect, Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation

What happened is as was caused by many things, locally and globally. The perennial problem of garbage disposal. Clogged drainage systems were caused by squatting, undisciplined stall and other commercial developments, even road digging left unattended.

How can you control years of smuggling and lack of policies will? I'm reminded of a vivid dream I had some time ago. I was perched on the tip of a precipice and was about to fall. It dented my eyes as I fell, anticipating being crushed when I hit the ground. But instead of hitting bottom, I realized I was flying and below was a great view of raging waters. All that was left standing in the middle of that great river was a boulder. There is a meaning somewhere in this vivid dream.—Bunyo Ramos, fashion designer

The negligence of governments, past and present, resulted in the lack of an efficient rail link to and from Manila, leaving a lot of us to build houses on just any piece of land in the metro, never mind if it's prone to landslide or flooding. It is obviously a failure to properly plan urban centers. One realizes that in many places, there's not only a lack of open spaces but also a lack of wide roads and deep waterways to drain rainwater. That is the result.

The solution is simple. Get the local governments to spend for dredging canals and major waterways, including the "ravines." Treat this as part of the city's maintenance and operating expense. Should government refund, we ought to ensure laws to privatize flood control and have the national and local governments pay for it.

Change provisions of the subdivision building code to require developers to embed environmental concrete pipes when building their drainage systems. Prioritize and ban encroachment of all sewers to the north and south so that more affordable and better planned waterways there, especially for the working class, will discourage the ravines. Media should play a major role by periodically emphasizing the need of government to clean up waterways and/or by reporting negligence.—Joshua Sisa, founder and chief executive officer, Branch Builder, Inc.

How they're . . .

From page C1

Come to help flood victims. I also made personal donations to a couple of organizations.

Patricia Ramos Diaz
Fashion designer

My first instinct was to scour our closets for clothes, towels, blankets and anything we could give. I emailed our friends there,

PATRICIA Ramos Diaz

asking them what they were hoping to get more things to give away. My kids did their share and as I watched them pack their clothes in the boxes, I silently offered a

prayer, thanking God for bringing us safely.

I helped wherever I could, handing out from friends to either give, deliver, repack or distribute goods. Everyone got busy helping. Friends and relatives have been setting up soup kitchens, repacking operations or gone to evacuation sites to feed people.

I also solicited clients and friends to help our help my workers whose houses were underwater, since I know that whatever I could give would never be enough.

Ingrid Go
Owner of Toast and Anatomy Ink

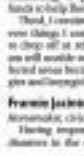
First, I have talents to training. We all are affected employees live basement and or home are able to cope. We have base employee who are severely affected, are losing everything. We're giving our unconditional support, cash and in kind, to make sure they get back on their feet again.

Second, I'm collaborating with a group called Mama for Mama to make sure we're able to buy enough relief goods for distribution to Marikina as well as to Mary ng Paso in Sto. Del Pero, Tondo. Pic Jano raised a good amount for Pabello Hospital in Ina Montserrat, but now that there's a more immediate need, we are channeling a portion of our funds to help flood victims.

Third, I continue to buy whatever things I can to donate and to drop off at relief centers as I am still unable to head out to affected areas because of my allergies and laryngitis.

Francis Jacinto
Restaurateur, circle worker

Having responded to various disasters in the country for the


FRANCIS JACINTO

past years, I knew we would need a lot of donations for those affected and I immediately

spoke to my sister Queenie to donate to friends, relatives and staff. I also like to my Facebook friends and listeners of 92.3 DR.X. My daughter, Natalia, responded right away and spent her first payday to buy foodstuff and sent it.

HALLOWEEN FUN AT TOY KINGDOM EXPRESS

BEJEWELED carnival mask with feathers

THESE mini pails all scream Halloween!

A BOO-TIFUL pumpkin costume for Halloween

SPOOKY monster-face bag with drawstring

YOU'RE in for a wacky Halloween with this colorful paper hat

TOTE these fun, bright-colored bags while trick-or-treating

SEXY for a safari look with the animal-print sweater

Should a friend ditch her marriage for an ex-BF?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

My lady friend who is married with four grown-up children has just reconnected with her ex-boyfriend. Although it is not clear if they broke up before she got married, the gentleman remained a bachelor until this time, though he has one son from a previous relationship.

Now they are texting and e-mailing each other, with occasional phone calls. They live in different parts of the world and their lives agreed to meet up someday. They still believe they will end up being together for the rest of their lives.

But my friend is in a more complicated situation because she is married.

She is determined, though, to end her marriage just for her true love. Do you think she is in her right mind?

CONCERNED FRIEND

Sure, people in love will always be right—in their own minds. And of course it's wonderful to feel young again and stay sleepless, thinking of someone you know who is thinking of you.

They have become besties, more daring and passionate in their language and thoughts, now that they are older. There's also the salve of a whole barrier of seas and continents separating them. There are no many constrictions, attachments and complications to make their relationship a reality.

I wouldn't worry about it if I were you. The fact that they are not even burning telephone lines or jumping in planes to see each other incessantly or go on the dig indicates there is no room for alarm.

They're just cavorting in the virtual world, feeling young and foolish again. Let them skim through their years of memories of fun in the past. That might even help your lady friend carry through whatever is emotionally ailing her.

Sometimes it takes three to make a marriage work. They might even use e-mail salve letters you know it. One time, five.

E-mail: emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph; Subject: lifestyle.

Airline extends promo until December

MANILA (UPDATED) Cebu Pacific is extending its Wow! Coast promotion until Dec. 31. Those who are planning to fly to any of the 10 West Coast cities served by Hawaiian Airlines are advised to make early reservations to avail of the special offer.

The West Coast promo, a period of which is valid for travel to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Jose, San Diego, Sacramento, Phoenix, Portland, Seattle or Oakland. Travelers may choose to stop over in Honolulu (in either direction) at no additional fee. The fare is valid for a maximum travel period of 90 days and is inclusive of fuel surcharges and other applicable fees. Hawaiian Airlines passengers enjoy additional privileges of checking in two pieces of luggage at a maximum weight of 32 kgs. each at no extra cost. For more information, call 918-0000 to 30.

Sun promo

Sun Cellular has extended the P3 and P5 international text rates. Sun subscribers can enjoy texting abroad for P3 to 10 countries. Text/voice rates abroad for only P3 per side national text to any mobile number in the US (main), Canada, Singapore, UAE, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Macau, Japan, Qatar and Brunei.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Generosity, volunteerism—kudos to all for reaching out

STORY ON PAGE D2

Ben10 and Powerpuff Girls join Shakey's Parties

With the recent tie-up of Shakey's and Cartoon Network, little girls can now dream of Girl Power with the Powerpuff Girls and little boys can never fighting the alien bomb with Ben 10 Alien Force.

Yes, because for the first time in its history, Shakey's is bringing in licensed themes for a truly authentic party experience!

Every child dreams of having a birthday party. It is a momentous event in their young lives. Some even go as far as asking mommy and daddy to plan for their next party the day after they threw today!

While most parties require a lot of work and can be quite expensive, birthday parties offer children a wealth of good memories. With just the right theme and celebration, they can have a fun, inexpensive and most importantly, a memorable party that won't break the bank.

Celebrations can be unique and special, yet quite affordable and unforgettable with Shakey's unique parties ideal for family gatherings as food perfection is on display. It is something all ages! You can sit back, relax and be assured that the children's party food is in charge and can take care of every little thing. Why? Because Shakey's has become a family favorite by offering the family-oriented atmosphere that enables the popular chain to woo the stores of little customers from the private dining partorities.

POWERPUFF GIRLS WITH BEN10 ALIEN FORCE

Everyone loves the Powerpuff Girls! The cute and cuddly trio of Blossom, Buttercup and Bubbles definitely saves the day with their awesome superpowers. Little girls will have a different Shakey's party experience with the new and exciting prizes and giveaways! To top everything off, instead of party hats, the celebrant and her guests will get pink Powerpuff Girls headgear!

Ben10 Alien Force steals the spotlight with exciting gifts and toys for the boys. Party goer will never be same with the Ben10 Alien Force tambourine and designer name tag with embedded Alien Force design. Little boys will definitely have fun with special trading cards as part of the prize.

CHILD'S PLAY PARTY THEMES

Shakey's parties are fun-filled because of its flexibility. Apart from the Powerpuff Girls and Ben10 Alien Force party themes, it has other multifaceted theme parties like the enchanted adventure, space quest, and Crackity Pop Fair. The packages are so easy to modify that teachers and adults alike make themes to host their personal parties as well as for corporate events.

Shakey's always guarantees value for money for its parties. With huge function rooms, party goers can relish the wider space for more fun and the great thing is that food choices are not limited. Menus can be tailored for the guests' tastes of kids and adults. Furthermore, parties can be held at a Shakey's restaurant at home or at any given venue specified by the clients. It's all because the parties and corporate events will never end, but a beginning.

To make the festivities even more fun and celebratory, Shakey's allows party activities. Guests have the option of using clowns and magicians, and adding delightful party favors like personalized tumblers and water pitchers and Italian candy maker. And to provide an amazing and heart-warming touch, tarot cards and face painting services are also available. Now, people don't have to look around looking for activities because Shakey's is now a one-stop party shop!

Moms and Dads, don't worry! Visit your nearest Shakey's restaurant and find out more about the exciting new themes and how to make your child's birthday celebration the best of its kind.

Shakey's has something to everyone and a whole lot more. You can be sure with more than one hundred restaurants to key cities nationwide the commitment of continuous growth as can be seen by Shakey's yearly opening more restaurants at some of the most central locations in the Philippines, wherein it already has a presence. Be it in Boracay, Baguio, Tagaytay, Batangas, Cebu and Davao.

Dining is all about Fun, Family, and great Pizza. Visit your nearest Shakey's Restaurant or dial 77-777 for on-time delivery.

GENEROUS couple Alex and Joel Fernando

ENERGETIC volunteers, headed by Hotel Fernandez exec Beth Fernando and family, preparing relief goods for evacuation centers in Marikina and Rizal

HSBC volunteers at Red Cross Headquarters

Generosity, volunteerism—kudos to all for reaching out

PHILIPPINE Underwater Hockey Club and Fitness First Tri Team members, including (w/ LILA) Alda Ocelot, Cheri Dagpacan, Nodi Resurado and Joel Boley assisted in the clean-up of Provident Village in Marikina.

HSBC lady volunteers Johanna Garcia, Cat Avalos and Sarah Wickinson with pretty daughter Caroline

HSBC CEO Mark Wickinson helps pack rice

YOUNG Assumption students helping repack relief goods for "Ondoy" victims

HELP! supplies all set and ready to go to San Teresa and Rizal, from Assumption College Sisi Lorenzo

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE incredibly disastrous Tropical Storm "Ondoy," heartwarming displays of volunteerism and concern spread throughout our country.

As sad as I was to see the damage and despair, I was also proud to see the Pinoy resilience and responsiveness exhibited during the crisis. Rescue all around, indeed, whether you have school-schedule-affecting small or hearsh-ish manner, or you have been part of the larger corporate or institutional efforts that are still ongoing.

It used to be that newspapers were called "the first draft of history." Not anymore. It has been compelling to watch donor events unfold via cmbkid via TV and cyberspace, and the immediacy of the various social media has been amazing. Now, newspapers have been relegated to the second or even third draft of history.

Whatever draft it is, newspapers are still a "good draft" to see all the news and pictures accumulated in one source. Then the scale of the entire calamity is revealed and the enormity of the relief efforts can be admired.

Leading the institutional charge has been the Philippine National Red Cross, visibly present in the worst hit areas like Marikina and Cainta. So many private efforts are underway that I am hesitant to even begin a listing, as so many would be left unrecognized. Let me just note some of the stories I am particularly aware of.

Commendable

Among the profit, commendable efforts were channeled through different schools. For instance, the Boston International School community provided relief to its literal next door neighbors. Without hesitation, after a request from the barangay captain, the school sheltered some 200 families in its covered courts.

Several ninth grade students swung into action and spearheaded a relief drive. Students, parents and staff repacked clothing and food items and distributed more than 1,000 packages to those less fortunate who had loaned the floodwaters and were in need of food, clothing and medication.

Assumption College San Lorenzo was a relief center tapping hundreds of students for support. Our Ms 'SL' hands donated goods, which have been distributed to the residents of Marikina in Brgy and the community around the Assumption schools in Antipolo and San Simon, Pampanga.

Several other schools, like Ateneo and La Salle, are still accepting food and cash donations. They urge benefactors to continue to be involved in the various relief efforts underway.

Birthday celebrations were set aside to give way to relief efforts. Interi Elizabeth grand dame Beth Fernando, with her family and top salon owners Ricky Reyes, organized Kanin ng Bayan to feed 2,000 people per day in different evacuation areas in Marikina, Rizal and Pampanga.

Full force

Assumption classmate Regnie Gamboa and I were happy to help in the packing of relief goods. I was consoled Jean Fernandez for getting so many friends to donate through Facebook. Among them is Sonja Ocampo of Cupcakes by Sonja, who is donating the sales of her Red Velvet cupcakes to Malasi Red Cross.

Stay lady and treasurer contributor

High-profile birthday celebrations have been set aside to give way to relief efforts

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Ingrid Go has been featuring her efforts on the Red Post Studio@Sunrise and Fabella Center, Pasong. Several new members have no homes to go to and are in need of basic medicines.

HSBC volunteers were in full force at the Red Cross Rizal Chapter all week, bringing with them hundreds of relief packages they had prepared at the Bonifacio Red Cross Global City headquarters. Among the volunteers were HSBC's SVP for Group Communications Johanna Garcia and CEO Mark Wickinson, joining his wife Sarah and daughter Caroline, who had already been there several hours before. Rizal Red Cross chairman Marietic Rafftus thanked the HSBC family for their amazing and generous support.

HSBC, along with its EPOs headed by Ian Strubel and Shiv Menon, donated P2 million to the Rizal Chapter for the construction of the Philippine National Red Cross, which is conducting relief and rescue operations in areas most severely affected.

Staff donations also continue to pour in, and volunteers attend the cafeteria daily to pack relief goods. According to Johanna, relief operations at the cafeteria look like a well-oiled, factory-assembly line.

Fashion gala

Rhody added that HSBC hires not only the best and the brightest, but also those with the biggest hearts. HSBC has always supported charitable projects, like our latest one, "Ladies: A Fashion Presentation," the First solo fashion gala of Dennis Lardizo. Co-producer Kapit Yinga and I were excited to be able to increase our support for the Red Cross with funds raised from the event.

As part of these efforts, we've expanded this silent auction with artworks, vacation packages and airline tickets. To accommodate more patrons, we're now holding "Ladies" on Oct. 17, 6 p.m., at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, which has generously agreed to sponsor our venue.

Usually the best is left very last-minute, but Oct. 17 opened up when the Tatler Ball moved to the following month, Nov. 17. Either top lady Irene Roxas or Precious Lopez wanted to cancel upon seeing it in October and felt it most appropriate to move the magazine's anniversary celebrations to a later date.

Tatler editor Antoni Ian Diego will be supporting "Ladies" through tickets and by providing loot bags for all the guests. The main beneficiary of

HELPful friends Pepsie Gamboa, Angelie de Leon, Janine Fernando, Ilea Princess, (w/) Ondoy girl Beth Fernando, Jean Fernando, Nicole Santiago and Hilary Bautista

this year's Tatler Ball is the Pink for Life foundation, thus, a portion of the funds raised will be given to the flood victims through Philippine Christian Foundation.

In a family celebration for the 16th Festival of Trees, a formal, sit-down dinner will take place on Oct. 7 at the Manila Polo Club. The charitable affair is a joint fundraiser between Makati Garden Club and Philippine Business for Social Progress, with one generous shareholder in store funds for our needy countrymen.

To date, Festival of Trees has raised close to P100 million to support numerous beneficiaries from Antipolo and Masjeeda Bay to Bicol and Mindanao. This year's beneficiaries will be the flood victims of Tropical Storm Ondoy, as well as Project Enrecha, to help the children of the metallurgical war-ravaged Basilan and Maguindanao.

Aside from the annual formal dinner-cum-auction of beautiful Christmas trees and paintings, conveniently led by Mindy Barredo Perez-Rubio, this year's event will include a floral fashion show and a silent auction of "mystery gift boxes." The live auction of paintings will culminate with a donation of a one-week sojourn in a luxurious, several-suite, four-bedroom villa by LUMAN at the prestigious St. Regis Bali Resort. LUMAN is a Hong Kong-based Private Destination Club.

In just several weeks, qualitative "solution" Amorphine chef Gallego was able to collect from several generous donors including restaurants, boutique shops, clothing shops and specialty services.

For more information, please call the Festival of Trees Secretariat at 327-7745 to 48 or e-mail phapfdp@up.org.ph or log on to www.phap-up.org.ph.

All these disasters and relief efforts have given me and a number of friends a "life check" moment. Is this all part of climate change? How do we stay positive in the face of all this?

Positive energy

Yoga is a wonderful medium to stay positive energy in life. Ishaan Yoga Studio (www.ishaanyogastudio.com) is one to call (889 1211) is organizing the 2009 Philippine Yoga Asana Championship, sponsored by Pro Life UR, at the BCR Theater on Oct. 25.

The event will showcase the benefits of—and practicing yoga. This should be a great way to stay positive in the face of all these superlephonic bombings in.

Let me end with an admonition to stay safe and dry. For the latest on typhoon news, call the new 24 hour hotline at 435-IRAH (435-4824).

E-mail the author at snapchecas@inquirer.com.ph.

MAGUINDANAO school projects, a beneficiary of Festival of Trees

BASILAN school kids aided by Project Executive of Makati Garden Club and Philippine Business for Social Progress

Blessed Damien to be canonized Oct. 11 in Rome

BLESSED DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, known the world over as "Global's apostle of leprosy," will be canonized by Pope Benedict XVI Oct. 11 in Rome.

Father Damien belonged to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He was born Joseph de Veuster on Jan. 3, 1840, in the Flemish Village, Tremelo, Belgium, the eighth child of the De Veuster family. He joined the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in 1859, went to the Novitiate in Louvain and received the name Damien.

Damien was ordained a priest in Honolulu. Appointed chaplain in 1873 to Molokai Island, he met the lepers there for the first time on May 10 and it changed his life. Instead of being repulsed by them, Father Damien studied their wounds, provided clothing and medicine. He cultivated fields, planted gardens, installed water supply and replaced the burial grass coverages with wooden houses, so the lepers would live comfortably.

Beatification

In 1965, Father Damien instructed the diocese. On Monday of the Holy Week on April 15, 1889, Father Damien passed away at 49.

Miraculous healings attributed to intercession of Father Damien led to his beatification by Pope John Paul II on May 10, 1995, in Brussels, Belgium. The Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary in Metro Manila will celebrate this beautiful event on Oct. 11, 9 a.m., with Bishop Antonio Tobias serving Mass at Basilica Minore de Immaculada Concepcion Cathedral, Lantana St., Cubao. T-shirts, books and memorabilia about Blessed Damien are available on request. Call 725-9802.

Blessed Jeanne Jugan

To be canonized on the same day as Blessed Damien is Jeanne Jugan, the French founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor (the order tending the late Lorenzo Ruiz home for the Elderly on Lancaster St., Pasay City). Cardinal Rosales will officiate the Thanksgiving Mass on Oct. 24, 10 a.m., at Manila Cathedral with Papal Nuncio Edward Joseph Adams as homilist.

The date will mark the birthday of the new saint on Oct. 25 at the convent on Lancaster St., Pasay. The Virgin of the Poor donated by Miss Dolores is enshrined there. A concerto and home of the elderly were also built in Balinao, Pangasinan, where Br. Sandie de Leon showed a life-size image of the Virgin of the Poor.

How to Our Lady of Lourdes

Thirteen years ago, Donalda Dorchester was stricken with Osteporosis-B and told by her doctors she had two years to live. Joining Adora's Travel for the first time to go to Lourdes, Donalda prostrated the Virgin who would visit her thrice every year if she was given the chance to heal. She did. She lives to this day.

Another pilgrimage to Lourdes and other Marian shrines is leaving Nov 18. Included is a trip to St. Padre Pio shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo. Call 5211651 or 5213658 or see DI 10-9981367c.

A future pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Knock in Cnoc Mayo, Ireland, is being planned. Catholics there believe that in 1879, there was an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist and Jesus (as the Lamb of God.)

Our Lady of La Leche

Mothers, mothers-to-be and lactose women are invited in the Mass celebrating the feast day of Our Lady of La Leche Oct. 11, 12 noon, at Chapel of St. Matthew in Stations Plaza. A handbook for mothers and mothers-to-be titled "Especially for You" will be launched after Mass. Baptism, seminar prayer booklets will be said.

Come and see Damien as we contact him and the Lord for October 11, 2009 at 1M Hospitality Ministries, at 3 PM.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Sarreal

Church needs help

San Carlos Borromeo Parish in Alabang, Batasan, is undertaking its feast day Nov. 4. There is need, however, to repair the ceiling of the convent and restrooms. Fr. Bridge Ocon, parish priest, said we may need P500,000 more. So please help by extending aid to the renewal projects. Even a one-liner ad as pauros (P500) is welcome. Text 0920-9318813 (Fr. Bridge) or 0915-2509644 (Mr. Agrasot) or 0917-8988962 (Ms. Bacildas). Thank you for your kindness.

Blessing of pets

Malate Church will hold a blessing of pets after the 9 a.m. Mass on Oct. 4, feast of St. Francis of Assisi who called animals "brothers." Franciscan missionaries will also hold one at Eastwood Cyberpark at 5 p.m. with Mass and blessing. Be sure is a photo spiritual responsibility.

Our Lady of the Pillar

Zamboanga City will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Pillar on Oct. 12. Devotees in Metro Manila will attend the nine-day Novena of Masses in Malate Church Oct. 3-11, 6 p.m., and Oct. 11, 3:30 p.m. Santa Maria is on Oct. 12, 7 a.m., in Malate Church. Residents billeted at Ateneo in Loyola Heights.

Minds in Progress

The Challenge of being a parent. AM I A GOOD ONE?

By: Drs. Leticia Penano – Ho
Clinical psychologist and neurotherapist.
Former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Education.

Parenting is...

- ...a lifetime of peaks and valleys
- ...a lifetime of highs and lows
- ...a lifetime of laughter and tears
- ...a constant search for what can be the best
- ...a lifetime of lemonade made sweeter by faith, trust and LOVE
- ...a lifetime I am proud to be a part of

Now that the "ber - ber" months are here, we start thinking of the most significant gift to give our children for the most important day – December and, of course Christmas, the children's most awaited event.

Reflecting on how we have been as parents led to resolve to be continually better is something which money can never buy. This is me, is the real gift to our children.

How do we reflect on being a parent? Are there guidelines that can help us? How aware am I of my being a parent? What can I do to be a better and more effective parent and to make parenting enjoyable to me and my children?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Do they know I love them?
- Do I love them unconditionally not only when they are good but even when they show inappropriate behaviours? Do they know that they do not need to earn my love?
- Am I affectionate with them so they learn to be affectionate to others, too. Hugs and kisses go a long way in making them feel good and loved.

Do they feel safe with me?
- Do they know that I will be around when they need me? How do I show this?
- Do they trust me enough to share their feelings, thoughts, and problems? How can I encourage this?

Do they know I respect them?
- Do I listen to them no matter how busy I am? Do I make for them amidst my hectic schedule?
- Do I respect their feelings instead of belittling them? Do I share their happiness and events/successes/friends? Or do I trivialize their feelings?

Do I work with my children in setting the limits of behaviour for the members of the family?
- Do I have a clear and consistent idea of standards of behaviour for my family?

Do I have fun with my children? my family?
- Do we enjoy being with one another? Do we do things together?

How do I discipline them?
- Discipline means to teach. If this is so, what have I taught my children?
- Am I able to correct the children's inappropriate behaviours or errors without belittling them? Am I verbally/physically harsh to them?

Do I motivate them to do be the best they can be?
- Do I set unrealistic expectations of them?
- Do I know what my children's strengths and weaknesses are?
- Have I helped my children become progressively independent since they were babies?
- Do I help them accept and learn from their mistakes?
- Do they there develop self-esteem and a creative and stable self-concept?

Am I a good role model?
- Do I practice what I teach them?
- Can I keep calm in difficult situations? Do I bear in mind that how I react will set an example to how they will react in similar situations?

Am I a good parent? What do I expect of myself? Can I forgive myself for my mistakes?

Being a parent is the best career one can have. Yet, there is no formal training for it since it seems expected that each one has the instinct for it. But even if we have an instinct for parenting, we can never be sure if what we are doing is most effective for our children. Like in any other career, self-awareness is the gateway to doing a better job of what is expected of us. The beginning of the "ber-ber" months would be the best time for a journey to our being a better parent.

Happy journey into yourselves . . .

Progress Phi School Staff supports Minds in Progress. We would like to hear from you, write to Minds in Progress for parenting concerns mindsinprogress@yahoo.com.

Polo play

Work this trend in an oversized version and cinch with a studded belt

Black corset, Gigi Aeronic denim collarless polo shirt, Wonderwoman; grey leopard print leggings, Encore; silver bib necklace, black studded belt, resin bangles, and silver and black rings, all from M&M'M; black mesh heels, Parisian

Grey leopard print corset, Gigi Aeronic

Denim polo shirt, Vivi Lee

Silver bib necklace, M&M'M

Black zipper leggings, Betsy

Black leatherette ruffled clutch bag, M&M'M

Denim platform heels, Parisian

Denim collarless polo shirt, Wonderwoman

Blue streak

Get your fix as punk rocks in animal motifs paired off with SM Department Store's denim redux

Black leggings, Red Jeans

Blue leggings, Red Jeans

Black cotton cropped top, Bianci Nero

Grey patent snakeskin wristlet, MB Handbag Collection

Black ruffled vest, Betsy

Silver dangling earrings, M&M'M

Denim platform heels, Parisian

Black tulle blurred top, Bianci Nero; black studded vest, Soho; blue leggings, Red Jeans; black studded belt and resin bangles, all from M&M'M; patent snakeskin heels, Parisian

Jean-ious!

With the best of jeans but the fit of leggings, the jeggings is the season's ultimate must-have

Inner tube

Add an edge to your jean tube dress with a leopard print corset

Denim tube dress, NY Square; leopard print corset, Gigi Aeronic; black animal vest, Soho; black fishnet tights, City Lady; black patent heels, resin bangles, and silver and black rings, all from M&M'M; black patent ankle shoe boots, Parisian

Denim tube dress, NY Square

Black trench coat, Alexane

Resin bangle, M&M'M

Denim tube dress, NY Square

Black zipper clutch bag, M&M'M

Denim platform heels, Parisian

Black lace corset, Gigi Aeronic

CALL THE RESTOS AND RESERVE NOW!

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PHILIPPINE '09 WINE AND FOOD WEEK RESTAURANT GUIDE

MAKATI RESTAURANTS — OCTOBER 4 - 11

UMU, Dusit Thani Manila
Dusit Thani, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 867-3333

Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant, Dusit Thani Manila
Mezzanine Level, Dusit Thani Manila
Ayala Ave, Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 867-3333 ext 3351

Basix and Lobby Lounge, Dusit Thani Manila
Lobby Level, Dusit Thani Manila
Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 867 3333 ext. 3360

Prince Albert Rotisserie Hotel Inter-Continental Manila
G/F Intercontinental Manila Hotel
Ayala Ave, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 759-7860
October 5-10: Lite Creations
2 course set menu for P932/person

Gambrinus Bar, Intercontinental Manila
Intercontinental Manila Hotel
Ayala Ave,
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 793-7060

Nuvo
G/F Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 757-3899
4-course set menu with choices
P950/person

Chelsea Market and Cafe
Serendra Piazza Ground Level
McKinley Parkway, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig City, Metro Manila
(02) 899-7011

MUSEUM CAFÉ
M Café
Museum Café, Greenbelt 4
G/F Greenbelt 4, Makati Ave.
cor. Dela Rosa St., Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 757-3899

Apartment 1B, One Lafayette Square
G/F Unit 1-B 132 L.P. Leviste
cor. Sedeno St., Salcedo Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 843-4575
Set menu for P950/person

Sala, Makati
Podium Level, Locsin Bldg.
6752 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave.
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 750-1555
Oct. 5 Monday Only: 4-course menu for P996/person

Sala Bistro
Sala Bistro, Greenbelt 3
Unit 114 G/F Garden Side
Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City
Metro Manila (02) 729-4888
October 6 Tuesday Only:
3-course set menu for P899/person

People's Palace
GF Garden side, Greenbelt 3
Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 729-3888
October 6 Tuesday Only:
Set menu for P880/person

Azuthai
G/F Milkyway Bldg.
900 A. Arnaiz Ave.
cor. Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 817-6252
Set Menu with 5 dishes

La Regalade French Bistro
820 Arnaiz Ave.
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 750-2104
4-course menu with choices
for P880/person

Zuni Restaurant and Wine Bar
G/F Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St., Legaspi Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 757-0361 to 62
Signature dishes for P995 each

Purple Feet
Wine Depot 217 Nicanor Garcia St.
Bel-Air, Makati City
Metro Manila
(02) 897-3220
4-course menu for P888/person

WineDepot and Inquirer LifeStyle bring you

Oct 4 - 11: Restaurant Week '09

The most exciting

strip down

in the Philippines' finest restaurants

Menus for less than P1,000 with wine, Vittoria Coffee and Italian water.

Vittoria Coffee

SANTA VITTORIA

www.winedepot.com.ph

MAKATI RESTAURANTS

Bocarinos, Renaissance Makati City Hotel
New World Hotel, Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Metro Manila
(02) 811-6888
Choice of two 3-course menus for P860/person

M2M, Renaissance Makati City Hotel
M2M (Morning to Midnight)
Renaissance Hotel - Makati
Renaissance Hotel, Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave.
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 811-6888 loc. 3388

IL Ponticello Cafe Ristorante
2/F Ariel 2000 Bldg. 121 Valero St.
Salcedo Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 887-4998
3-course menu with choices for P599/person

Fiamma
Fiamma, Jupiter St.
32 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 897-1352
4-course menu with choices for P990/person

Fish Out of Water
Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St.
Legaspi Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 729-3555
4-course set menu with choices

Le Souffle @ Rockwell
Le Souffle, Rockwell
G/F Amorsolo Square, Amorsolo Drive
Rockwell Center

Le Souffle Top of the City
Le Souffle, Makati
34/F Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 750-0813 to 11
3-course menu with choices for P595/person

The Tivoli, Mandarin Oriental
Makati Ave.
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 750-8888
3-course menu with choices for P595/person

Tin Hau Mandarin Oriental Hotel
Makati Ave.
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 750-8888 loc. 2424 or 2422
Special set menu for P999/person

Kai
Unit I-112 Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 757-5209
3-course set menu

Aquaknox
800 Arnaiz St. cor. Amorsolo
San Lorenzo Village
Makati, Metro Manila
(02) 894-3360
4-course menu with meal for P880 with seafood P985/person

Restaurant Cicou, Hotel Celeste
San Lorenzo Drive cor. A. Arnaiz Ave.
San Lorenzo Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 887-4888 loc. 242
3-course menu with choices for P665/person

Rockefeller
2/Lvl. Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 757-4682

Felix
Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St.
Legaspi Village, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 729-9982

Malcolm's Place
106 H.V. Dela Costa St.
Salcedo Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 844-0808

Lolo Dads Brasserie
Ground Floor 5750 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
813-6750
4-course menu with choice for P1,000/person

Gram's Diner @Rockwell
Grams Diner, Rockwell
Rockwell Info Center, Rockwell Drive
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 403-6122

Chateau 1771
Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St., Legaspi Village
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 729-9763
Dinner Only: 4-course set menu for P990/person

Pepato
Pepato, Greenbelt 2
GF Greenbelt 2, Esperanza St.
Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 757-2636
5-course menu for P995/person

Mi Piace, The Peninsula Manila
The Peninsula Manila,
cor. of Ayala and Makati Ave.
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 887-2888
Progressive Dinner: Appetizers at Spices, main course at Mi Piace and Dessert at The Lobby for P999/person

Spices, The Peninsula Manila
The Peninsula Manila,
cor. of Ayala and Makati Ave.
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 887-2888
Progressive Dinner: Appetizers at Spices, main course at Mi Piace and Dessert at The Lobby for P999/person

The Lobby, The Peninsula Manila
The Peninsula Manila,
cor. of Ayala and Makati Ave.
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 887-2888
Progressive Dinner: Appetizers at Spices, main course at Mi Piace and Dessert at The Lobby for P999/person

The Tower Club
33rd and 34th floor PhilAm Towers
Paseo de Roxas street, Makati City
(02) 865-7088

Tosca
Dusit Thani, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
(02) 887-3333 ext. 3310

Lagen Island Resort
Winemaker Dinner

Lagen Island Resort – the premier gourmet destination in Palawan, invites you to their exclusive Winemaker Dinner this month.

Join our exclusive gala dinner on October 7 and partake our delectable 4-course sustainable menu with matching premium biodynamic wines from Cape Jaffa, South Australia.

Clip this ad and present upon booking to receive your limited VIP pass to our exclusive Winemaker Dinner on October 7 and get the chance to meet the winemaker himself, Derek Kasper and Chefs Tore Hines and Gilbert Pangilinan.

For more details, please call 896 5648 / 0917 578 7601 or email holiday@elnidoresorts.com

EL NIDO RESORTS
www.elnidoresorts.com

QUEZON CITY RESTAURANTS

Lemuria
Horseshoe Village
5 Juliete Circle, Horseshoe Village
Quezon City, Metro Manila(02) 724-8311
4-course set menu with choices for P990/person

Zucchini's
20 Scout Tuazon cor. Scout Castor
Quezon City, Metro Manila
(02) 376-5086
3-course menu with choices P960/person

Gram's Diner @ ABS-CBN
The Loop, ELJCC Building
Sgt. Esguerra cor. Mother Ignacia
Quezon City
(02) 412 2671

Decantar
The Continental
at the Palms Country Club
Ground Floor, CreekSide Square Bldg.
74 Tomas Morato Quezon City
(+632) 726 9186 / 0923 4991333
Dinner only: 4-course menu for P995/person

TAGUIG RESTAURANTS

Cav Wine Shop and Café
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Editor Rosario G. Yolardo

ENTERTAINMENT

In NY, Lea Salonga sings for 'Ondoy' victims /G1

CHEER FACTOR

Sarah Geronimo: I'm happy; romance can wait

"I'm not looking, but I'm praying that I find the right man."

By Marinel R. Cruz

AT 21, SINGER-ACTRESS Sarah Geronimo is in no hurry to have a boyfriend.

"I'm happy with what I have right now. Strictly and friends are my inspiration," Sarah said at the press con for her "Record Breaker" concert set Nov. 7.

With her right work schedule, she said, she hasn't had time for school, let alone romance. "I'm okay, bahay-trabaho lang. Love can wait." But, the singer-actress adds, "I'm not looking, though admittedly I pray for it."

Fellow concert artist Mark Bautista has been very vocal about his interest in courting Sarah, whom he first worked with in the movie "Mara Kavite's Guide-man: Unang Baras" (2004). Sarah was briefly linked to TV hosts/dudes John Lloyd Cruz and Mark Herras.

Have her parents been interested? "They are protective, not just of me but of all their children," Sarah noted. "I have a 15-year-old sister, wala pa ring boyfriend. My parents want all of us to finish our studies. In all fairness to them, however, they understand me (and for inspiration, for [romantic] love. They are praying for me to meet a God-loving man, who will take care of me and be a good influence on my life."

SARAH'S FU

Autopsy shocker: Jackson was healthy

LOS ANGELES—MICHAEL JACKSON'S outward appearance was marred when he died with prominent marks in his arms, surgical scars around his body and cosmetic tattoos on his lips and scalp.

But internally, the pop star was in mostly fine physical shape for a 50-year-old man, according to his autopsy report obtained by The Associated Press.

MICHAEL Jackson at

The Los Angeles County coroner's report shows Jackson's weight of 136 lb (62 kg.) was in the acceptable range for a 5'9" man (175.26 cm). His heart was strong, with no sign of plaque buildup. His kidneys and most other major organs were normal.

The singer did have health issues, however, including arthritis in the lower spine and some fingers, and mild plaque buildup in his leg arteries. Most serious was the condition of his lungs, which the autopsy report said were chronically inflamed and

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'Lisa@25' rese

"LISA@25," THE SHOW CELEBRATING ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde's 25th anniversary as a professional dancer, has been extended to Oct. 9 and 10 at Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

The artist announced that partial proceeds of the show will be donated to victims of the recent floods caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" (Intl 525-1067).

Katy Perry at MOA

The Katy Perry concert, which also features Baps Like Girls, will be also here next to Nov. 11 on the IBI Mall of Asia open grounds. The show will be a first-timer for "Ondoy" victims, with some foreign and local acts to be added to the lineup.

Imelda Papin at UE

Also rescheduled is "The Grand Concert of Song and Dance" with Imelda Papin, which will be held on Oct. 9, 6 p.m. at the University of the East Theater, Old Recto, Manila. Call 735-5471 loc. 456.

Martha Jay tonight

Vox Records talent Martha Jay performs tonight at Master's Casino of Resorts World Manila, Newport Boulevard (across Naia Terminal 3), Pasay City.

'Believe, The Pop Musical'

"Believe, The Pop Musical," which opened in Cebu last July, will be staged on Oct. 3 at the Music Museum.

The show, which stars Isabella, Keith Martin, Radha, Gigi Locsin, Mons Dodoseos, Benjie Layno and Miss Asia winners, combines the drama of dreams and the energy of a musical co

Sarah Geronimo: I'm

From page F1

Until then, Sarah's focus are singing and performing. "I'm her country is too when I tour, and it may seem boring to others ... But the moment I hear the audience applaud, nawawasiwas lahat ng pagod ko."

Being in the cast of a good movie gives her a different high. "I feel that loved values people get in the theater to watch my work," Sarah said. "There's more pressure in acting than in performing on stage, which I've been doing since I was small."

The "Pop Princess" is set to do a domestic movie with Judy Ann

Autopsy shocker ...

had reduced capacity that might have left him short of breath.

But the lung condition was not serious enough to be a direct or contributing cause of death, according to the document. "His overall health was fine," said Dr. Zeev Kain, chair of the anesthesiology department at the University of California, Irvine, who reviewed a copy of the autopsy report for the AP.

Several tattoos

Kain, who was not involved in the autopsy, said most of the scars appeared to be from plastic surgery; others, like a scar on the knee, could have been from a medical procedure.

The medical examiner found numerous punctures on both arms and on a knee and ankle. The big punctures could have been from intravenous therapies also described in the autopsy report, Kain said.

Jackson had several tattoos, all of them cosmetic, including dark tattoos to the areas of both eyebrows

et Oct. 9

'Manila' competes in Warsaw Int'l Film Festival

CHEER FACTOR

AFTER ITS PREMIERE IN CANNES AND FILM FESTIVAL screenings in Moscow, Hadrowiak, Oldenburg and Bangkok, "Manila," starring Dido Dantad, is competing in the 20th Warsaw International Film Festival in Poland. The film directed by Adolfo Alix Jr. and Rayo Martinez is among the 15 films competing in the Free Spirit Section, which focuses on independent, rebellious films from all over the world.

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ENTERTAINMENT

PROUD HP DELEGATION. Rejoicing in Bangkok are (from left) Sonedy Que, Raymund Nolledo, Arnold Arguelles, Bi-Hann "Dizzy" Manalasa, Jakelle Alle Jr. and Arlene Cuevas. At right, Lea Salonga and theater artistic director Victor Liele singe a fandance.

Lea Salonga sings for 'Ondoy' victims

New York concert organized in 24 hours

LOS ANGELES—"CHEKOY" MAY have wrought terrible devastation to our country but in its wake, something beautiful and profound arose: the unprecedented support Filipinos all over the world have shown to help the flood victims and relief efforts in every way possible.

Also thanks to the Internet and amazing technology. Pinoys galore, mixed together in summer fashion. "By outpouring of 'Bayanihan' spirit, 21st century style, a very moving.

Take the case of Lea Salonga's special fund-raising performance for the hospital storm victims on Monday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. at The Philippine Center's Kalayaan Hall located at 556 Fifth Avenue in New York City Lea, her friend Victor Liele, the good folks of the Ayala Foundation USA and the Philippine Consulate General were able to organize the event in less than 24 hours!

TAPE for Victor Ocampo City Theater Company artistic director, tell the story. Here's his e-mail account:

Heartbreaking news

"The event was planned just last night (Wednesday evening, Sept. 30). Earlier yesterday, I was in communication via e-mail with Deputy Consul General Millie Bermejo, expressing my desire to do something for the victims. I had been consumed by all the news about the calamity and the photographs online were simply heartbreaking.

"I knew Lea was scheduled to be in town for concert engagements in upstate New York. But I also knew that she had very limited time due to work, in 9-to-5 p.m. (yesterday). I went to a meeting with Bob Perkunis, Lea's legal counsel and who is helping me with a final memo for another project. Bob told me he spoke to Lea after expressed the same desire to do something for the storm victims. In while I was in Bob's office, I called Lea and left a message on her voicemail. I found out later that she was already on an LA-bound flight.

"It's around 11:30 p.m. last night. Lea called me. She had just landed in LA. We talked about the victims of the storm and the insufficient help and relief available to them. She said, 'We definitely have to do something, no matter how small.' She was originally scheduled to leave earlier, but she changed her schedule so she can do a benefit event. So we agreed on a date and logistical things.

"At 10:47 p.m. last night when I got home, I e-mailed Consul General Cecil Rebong, Millie, Ayala Foundation (AF) USA president Vicky Garchitorena, overseas [New York Times] Marilyn Abalos and officer Bianca Sarili. By 11:30 p.m., I had received an e-mail from Vicky confirming her support. By 11:48 p.m., I was communicating with Bianca regarding logistical arrangements. A few minutes after midnight, I had alerted e-mail/internet responses supporting support from Millie, Marilyn Abalos and Consul General Cecil Rebong. All Millie needed to do was to confirm the Kalayaan Hall's availability, which she did at 10:38 a.m. the following day. By 2:49 p.m., we had sent out the announcement."

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In a joint statement, Victor and Lea revealed details of the special performance: "Doors are found open. To RSVP, e-mail mary@filamusicfoundation.org. Donation: $50 general admission; VIP donation: $150+ which includes a pre-show cocktail reception. All proceeds to benefit the typhoon relief fund.

"If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation, send hugs," (www.ad.smcorp. Go to 'Donate Now' and select 'AF-USA Typhoon Relief Fund.' For check donations, make checks payable to Ayala Foundation USA and mail them to 2211 Shoreline Drive, Suite 628, Redwood City, CA 94065. Please put 'flood victims' on the memo portion of your check. For questions, please e-mail vmcmanila@gmail.com."

Bangkok win

Arlene Cuevas, back home from Thailand where "Isalayaw, Isandig," which she produced and Rosa Montes directed, won seven prizes, e-mailed us her thoughts: "We were all very honored and happy that 'Isalayawisandig' won not just one but two prizes—Grand Prize in the Southeast Asian Competition and the Pinipas Jury award, and also happy that Sherrad Anthony Sanchez's 'Isalawan' won Special Mention as well. We were glad that there was a strong Filipino presence in the festival this year, with three Filipino films in competition. I also co-produced

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Lea Salonga sings...

From page A1

the other Filipino song, 'Anewa,' directed by Adolfo Alix Jr. which was also in competition. And Brillante Mendoza was one of the jurors in the Main Competition...

"Bata si Jo New York for the New York Film Festival" she clarified. "Independent" is an official entry in that ongoing festival. "I talked to Jiggy who wished he was in Bangkok with us.

"There were no speeches during the awarding ceremony" Jobson said. "It was a straightforward event with Princess Ubolratana of Thailand giving out the awards..."

Before flying to Bangkok, she attended the Shadowcast International Film Festival where "Independencia" was in competition.

Ashem is glad to be back home. "Yes, we were all affected by Ondoy" she disclosed. "I live in Alabang. In every near Alabang, 125 area and my area got flooded all the time. It sure good our immediate families and friends were safe."

E-mail the columnist at rosputin_2000@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nipa-ble Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/rosputin/.

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Matinee idol is matron's ex-boy toy

By the Entertainment staff

THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN something fishy about Reality Hunk's background.

A male parasite that DH1 runs 'Healthy Mischief' boy toy reboot he was 16 and she was 30. Calling Barney Bata.

The spy relates that Bill had to join others his when his benefactor was drowned by a serious illness.

Spotted 1

A male spotted two guys strolling in the mall. Nothing the names with that.

Except that Guy L. Moreno Singer, was once accidentally run-off by a Sexy Comedienne in a campus show.

Guy L, Trinity Model, has been known to engage in gay affairs even as a teenager in an international school.

Mele is sure MS and HM are now lovers.

Spotted 2

Seen having dinner in an upscale area in Seminole were Controversial Star and Scandalous Politico.

Is DP gathering evidences from Ch, who was never a party to any of his estranged girlfriend? Or is DP asking CH to mediate?

Bad-news hunk

Current talk of show town is Top Hunk, who is alleged to have ballistas.

Romney Fortyer has complained of ITIS to Cool Sounds host Jonathan Sim. Jet has defended the poor guy.

What to make of the news? How dated a incestuously endorsement? Realistic!

Gay fest open

Out & Proud Pinoy Queer Film Fest, is calling for entries.

The competitive festival, to be held on UP Diliman from Nov. 23 to Dec. 1, is presented by the UP Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts, the UP Diliman Information Office, the UP College of Mass Communica-

MORE PLEASE. BC Corruption is calling on kind-hearted individuals to donate more necessities for victims of "Ondoy."

tion and the UP Film Institute.

Deadline for submission of entries is Oct. 16. Check out www.upfilminstitute.net

Twisting for a cause

BC Corruption twitted that she and other "Beginner and Star" volunteers packed relief goods for Bgy Sto. Nino, Pateros residents.

"Sib Suwe 1,300 (packs of) relief goods so far," BC wrote. "And 500 burgers from Mcfin, 500 Sonomade tuna and egg sandwiches, 500 packed adobo with rice."

She requested for necessities like "trash bin[s], toothpaste and mouthwash."

For donors and volunteers who can't visit evacuation centers, she posted a website: www.wclp.org/donate/index

Sympathies from Akon

Hip hop/R&B superstar Akon extends his sympathies to his Filipino fans, in the wake of "Ondoy."

Amid a busy touring schedule, Akon said he was deeply saddened upon finding out about the tragedy. "My heart grieves for all Filipinos who lost their lives, their loved ones and their cherished possessions," he laments. It is in these trying moments that we flash our greatest strength, faith and capacity for self-sacrifice. I pray for the safety and well-being of all of you out there in the Philippines."

Akon is scheduled to perform at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 23 with Billy Crawford, in "Freedom Tour 09" show heralded a drunk of the concert proceeds to the typhoon victims.

* * *

BARBRA Streisand released Tuesday her new CD, "Love Is the Answer," her first in four years.

AP/A.P.

Top of the tabloids, TV talk shows

The top show-biz stories in PEP tabloid Bandera this week, plus quotes from TV talk shows. (And why we are mixed, if we are mixed.)

- Mr. Twister (crooning in bed): I love to see how thin it is!"
- Mind-ale habit!—Mark Bautista. (I d... kindly)
- Buffa Gutierrez "tumbler" kay Arlos Lloyd Cruz. (We doubt this.)
- Cristine Reyes nakabalik ang ngang (We agree totally.)
- Cristine ayaw mag-lumabi sa blackine. (We agree all.)
- Mga lina ni Willie Revillome (ti ng. (We agree totally-crapped it!)
- Rich Bernal: Mad to depang ngaton ti Bora Daal (Bleh.)
- Lorna Tolentino kinikilig kay Arlo Lloyd. (It Lucky-dit kaya?)
- Kristine Hermosa kinatatawan ng mga bisiness. (Just on to. It naman iyo makbang kumusta.)
- Bong Revilla at Lani Mercado (kinumpirm di d Bonanova Bacay? (Di nga raw.)
- Si Jc de Jar Alas ayaw ipangdokdokan ang nang. IOK, should we ignore this story then?)
- Si Ai Ahinyit na, magiba na kayong ir-hurt (And that's not cute, we guess.)
- Pillie Revillame naghe-hot, multi daw ang P1-M donation. (Boys nemen, taking po me 'yun.)

E-mail us: vsalon@inquirer.com.ph

'SOP,' 'Mel & Joey' air specials for 'Ondoy' victims

KAPUSO STARS GATHER together to GMA 7 shows "SOP" and "Mel & Joey" hold a special fund-raising activity today for the benefit of Filipinos affected by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

"SOP Concert for a Cause," 60-big 11:45 a.m.—top-billed the seventeen show's regulars—Regine Velasquez, Dyan Alcaraz, Jaya and Jessa Gibbs—along with other stars.

"Mel & Joey," hosted by Mel Tiangco and Joey de Leon, airs "Sa Gitna ng Unang Bangyo Ibang" on 8 tonight.

The special episode aims to share the heroic acts of celebrities and non-celebrities who risked their lives in rescuing others during the onslaught of the storm. It also opens its telephone lines for more donations.

7 days of courage

"Deep Waters," the story of seven days of trials and courage when Tropical Storm "Ondoy" ripped through the nation, airs today at 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. on the ABS-CBN News Channel.

"Deep Waters," produced by "Storyline's" Dominic Rose-

CLICK!

Braving the floods

Tonight's episode of "Survivors" remakes 16-year old Shiraz Bejasa's experience of the deluge, filed with his family after leaving the floods on Sept. 26.

Host Jessica Soho tells the inspiring story on "Sa Gitna ng Unos" (Storyline, Sundays at 8:15 p.m. on Q Channel 11).

Rediscovering sharks

Discovery Channel's "Shark Week" returns to get viewers reacquainted with sharks—from the science of shark behavior at night to stunning survival stories and a close-up encounter with the Great White.

The show premieres tomorrow at 9 p.m. with "Day Of The Shark: Shark Attack Files." Other episodes: "Day of the Shark 2," "Great White Apparent," "Shark After Dark," "Deadly Waters," "Sharkfest Summer," and "Blood in the Water."

Elijh Lorenzana and Robert Seña

'Tales of the Manuvu' returns onstage

BALLET PHILIPPINES on its 40th season presents "Tales of the Manuvu" on Oct. 23, 24 and 25 at the CCP Main Theater.

A contemporary production of the 1979 rock opera ballet written by National Artist Francisco Lamberto with music by Nonong Padura, "Tales of the Manuvu" is based on the Manobo myth of creation.

Featuring the song "Nonong Unang Paraiso," which became a pop hit when it was recorded by Leah Navarro (1979) and Rob Ledesma (1993), "Manuvu" is a tale of the Filipinos' origins and motherhood, and the love and appreciation for the primal forces of nature. Choreographed by Paul Morales, it stars Robert Seña, Gigi Lorenzana, Ramon Mirkl, Jaime Barcelon, Elaiza Pascua and Al Garcia with the band MidiKing.

Call 5510221, 5513083 and 8919099.

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